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5 charged in bridge disaster

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK and ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Five people were charged with negligent homicide in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the July 14 collapse of the footbridge at the Ramat Gan sports stadium at the opening of the Maccabiah Games.

The accident claimed the lives of four Australian athletes and injured dozens.

The five people charged are Micha Bar-Ilan, the engineer who designed the bridge; contractors Yehoshua Ben-Ezra and Baruch Karagula, who built the bridge; Adam Mishori, managing director of the Irgunit company, which employed the contractors; and Yoram Eyal, who was chairman of the Maccabiah Games organizing committee. Eyal resigned on Sunday.

Charges called 'small step in right direction,' Page 5

In the 11-page indictment, the five are charged with negligent homicide, inflicting bodily harm by negligence, and building without a permit.

According to the indictment, the bridge was constructed within two weeks – too short a period to appropriately plan and design a bridge. Construction was carried out without all the construction plans, without proper supervision, and by people who had no experience in building bridges.

The bridge was designed to hold a load of 250 kilograms per sq.m., half the burden required, the indictment said.

Meanwhile, the rift between Maccabi Australia and the World Maccabi Union seemed to widen, as Maccabi Australia president Tom Goldman expressed his "disappointment" at the world organization's continued handling of the aftermath of the bridge collapse.

Goldman did not rule out the possibility that Australia might pull out of the worldwide sports organization.

Meanwhile, world union president Ronald Bakalarz said the organization is "fully confident" that Eyal will be found innocent.

"It was a tragic accident, but it was an accident," Bakalarz said. "Accidents occur; in this country many accidents occur, but I don't see people resigning or stepping down all over the place. Two helicopters crashed... and 73 soldiers were killed, but I didn't hear anyone calling for the resignation of the prime minister or the defense minister.""

The two officials spoke at a press conference following a two-day emergency meeting of the Presidents' Forum of World Maccabi. At the meeting, demands by Maccabi Australia were considered, including requests for the resignation of those associated with the five charged in Maccabiah bridge collapse and the appointment of an independent committee of inquiry.

These requests were only partly fulfilled. The presidents accepted Eyal's resignation and that of Itamar Herman, the chairman of the North American desk, who had been responsible for the opening ceremonies at which the disaster occurred.

However, the committee ruled that it would not consider accepting the resignation of Uzi Natanel, chairman of the Maccabi World Union, should he offer it – a move the Australians had asked for.

Nor did the presidents agree to appoint an independent investigating committee. Instead, they initiated an internal investigation by a "fact-finding" commission headed by Judge Yitzhak Baraz, which will report to the next World Maccabi Union meetings in May.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu listens to a high-tech factory worker in Ofakim explain her job yesterday. He promised to create 300 jobs in the Negev town beset by unemployment. (AP)

No-confidence bid foiled by tie

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

The Knesset yesterday defeated a motion of no confidence in the prime minister over the unemployment situation by a dramatic tie of 44-44. Although the motion would have needed a 61 MK majority to pass, the tie is seen as a slap in the face for the government.

Earlier in the day, hundreds of unemployed demonstrators greeted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Ofakim yesterday with boos and chants of "Bibi go home," despite his promise to create some 300 new jobs in the Negev town.

Yesterday's vote followed a particularly long response on the government's behalf by Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom, who played for time in the absence of coalition MKs. Many of the Likud MKs were at the World Likud convention during the debate, a party spokeswoman said. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai left the plenum before the vote, to protest the closure of the Gibor Sabrina textile company.

Netanyahu convened a high-level meeting late last night to discuss ways to save the company.

In his reply to the Meretz and Hadash no-confidence motion, Shalom said the government had decided to allocate NIS 120 million to fight unemployment by creating between 15,000 and 18,000 jobs.

"We saw [Labor Party leader] Ehud Barak running off to Ofakim, not to provide jobs but to smear the government's name. He should examine where the roots of the unemployment are to be found," said Shalom.

MKs fail to approve state budget, Page 2
Gibor Sabrina to shut down, Page 13

He said the slowdown in the economy started in 1995 and that the Labor government had a budget deficit of NIS 14 billion a year. Without drastic budget cuts, the situation would be "catastrophic," he said. He said the prime minister in the past week has taken action to create 700 jobs and treat the specific problems of Ofakim.

Meretz whip Haim Oron accused Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of "running away while unemployment grows by the hour."

He noted that over 1,000 workers had lost their jobs at Gibor Sabrina, when only NIS 2 million are needed for the company to remain open.

"This is a hardhearted government, which increases the travel allowance of the prime minister and his wife, which throws around money for the jubilee festivities, and which throws money at the settlements, but is not prepared to give to the development towns."

He later said the tie vote was not a coincidence, but revealed the coalition crisis over the budget. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid described the vote as the government's dying breath.

Barak told the Labor faction that during his visit to Ofakim he "got the impression that Ofakim residents are not willing to be suckers any more. I got the impression they had noted who had harmed their dignity and livelihoods."

Former finance minister Avraham Shohat called the government's decision not to guarantee an NIS 2 million loan to save Gibor Sabrina "scandalous."

Netanyahu was accompanied by several ministers and the ministerial committee of directors-general on his visit to Ofakim, a Likud bastion whose official unemployment rate is 14.3%.

See VOTE, Page 2

New law eases reservists' burden

By LIAT COLLINS

Reservists today can stand at ease – or at least breathe easier – after the Knesset last night finally passed, after some four years, a bill by MK Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) which reduces reserve duty and lowers the age at which they can no longer be called to serve.

The bill was passed by a unanimous 24 votes, after which MKs toasted its passage with a glass of wine in the Knesset canteen.

Under the new law, some provisions of which are already being implemented and some of which will come into force on January 1:

- Combat reservists above 41 will not be called for service.
- Most reservists cannot be called for more than 36 days a year, including 25 days' active service, five days' training, and six single days;
- Reservists who serve over the quota will receive extra financial compensation.
- Non-combat reservists will stop serving at 47 instead of 54.

Blanket emergency call-up orders (Tzav 8) will be abolished, except for special cases approved by the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. There will also be parliamentary supervision of the organization of reserve duty.

Under the law, an employee cannot be fired or discriminated against for being absent on reserve duty. Students who miss exams because of service will have to be provided with another sitting.

"The law represents a revolution regarding reserve duty and will contribute to the more equitable distribution of the burden and raise the motivation of those who do reserve duty," Cohen said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also welcomed the bill when it came up in the plenum.

Cohen said the law will save the economy an estimated NIS 500 million a year.

Intel boss named 'Man of the Year'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – Andrew Grove, a Jew who survived the Nazi occupation of Hungary and the Soviet invasion of Budapest and went on to become the chairman of Intel, has been named *Time* magazine's "Man of the Year."

In a profile entitled "A Survivor's Tale," *Time* said Grove "has been pushed by a will to live as other men are fired by a taste for power or money." Grove's mantra, the magazine said, is: "Only the paranoid survive."

In honoring Grove, *Time* called Intel the "essential firm of the digital age," with a "stranglehold on one of the transformative technologies of the 20th century."

See INTEL, Page 2

The guilt that doesn't fade

IT'S NO ACCIDENT

By Larry Derfner

Eyal (not his real name) does not remember flipping the car and being thrown from the driver's seat. He got off with only bruises. A 20-year-old woman soldier was also thrown out of the car, but she landed on her head and was killed.

It happened three and a half years ago. The accident and the five days that followed are a black hole in Eyal's memory.

Now a student in the Tel Aviv area, he was a 19-year-old IDF driver at the time. Afterwards, he suffered what could be called a nervous breakdown. At times he would simply collapse. During furloughs he would go to Jerusalem, where the dead soldier, whom he'd known pretty well, had lived. He'd walk the streets in hope of finding her. One day he got up the courage to go to her home. He asked her mother's forgiveness. The mother refused.

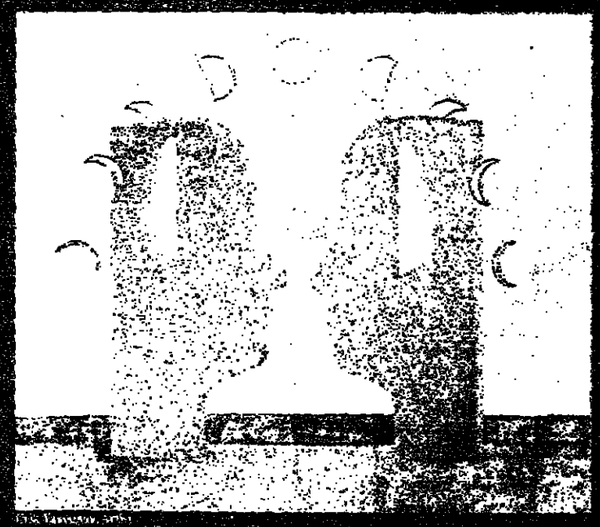
"I learned that the only way to overcome pain is to replace it with a greater pain," says Eyal, a soft-spoken, vulnerable-looking young man. He began cutting his body with a knife, and smashing his fists and feet into the wall. He planned to commit suicide, and wrote a number of suicide notes, but never went through with it.

"I didn't want to cause my family any more suffering," he explains. "I was afraid that if I killed myself, my pain and guilt would be passed onto them."

See ACCIDENT, Page 5

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NEWS
in brief

PM doesn't plan to advance elections

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has no intention of advancing elections, according to a statement issued by the prime minister's bureau yesterday. Yesterday morning, Israel Radio played back a reply Netanyahu had given the night before to Channel 2 interviewer Ilana Dayan. In it, he was heard talking about elections perhaps being held "in a few months' time."

But the radio failed to broadcast the question and the premier's entire answer, which was that he "doesn't believe that early elections will take place" but that he is "not afraid of losing to Labor's Ehud Barak in any scenario. Even early elections would not be held immediately, but in a few months' time and I am confident I will win," he said. The statement stressed that Netanyahu was answering "a question about various political hypotheses and this should not be construed to signify a desire on his part to initiate early elections." *Sarah Honig*

Three SLA soldiers wounded in south Lebanon

Three South Lebanese Army soldiers were lightly wounded in a long-range mortar attack on their outpost in the western sector of the security zone yesterday.

The gunman, believed to be from Hizbullah or its Shi'ite rival Amal, also fired mortars at an IDF position in the same area.

There were no casualties in that incident, although one of the mortar rounds scored a direct hit on the compound, causing some structural damage. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

On Saturday a SLA soldier was lightly wounded when an explosive device was detonated alongside the civilian car in which he was driving near Kafr Huneh in the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone. *David Rudge*

Bentsur reassures Moratinos

European Union peace envoy Miguel Moratinos was reassured yesterday by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur that Israel hopes he will continue with his mission. A source disclosed, however, that the Spanish diplomat was criticized during intensive deliberations about his peacemaking mission conducted by senior members of the ministry staff. He said Moratinos was described as having adopted "an unbalanced position."

Moratinos contacted Bentsur immediately after this was leaked to the news media. He learned from a radio report that influential members of the Foreign Ministry were dissatisfied with the EU's stand on the Middle East dispute, especially as reflected in the newly-adopted Luxembourg Declaration. *Jay Bushinsky*

Israel confirms naval venture with US and Turkey

Israel confirmed yesterday that its much talked about trilateral naval maneuvers with Turkey and the United States will be held on January 7 in international waters in the eastern Mediterranean. Both Israel and Turkey have rebuffed criticism from Arab states and have stressed that the maneuvers are strictly a search and rescue operation exercise. The US Embassy in Tel Aviv said the *USS John Rodgers* would participate. Israel said Turkey and the Israeli navy each would send two ships. Helicopters also are expected to participate. Turkey has said the exercise, dubbed "Reliant Mermaid," will last from January 5-9, but the IDF issued a statement yesterday saying that the exercise would last only one day. The Turkish ships will spend most of the time at the navy port in Haifa. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Beilin off to Jordan

Labor MK Yossi Beilin is scheduled to visit Jordan today. He is the first opposition MK to make an official visit there since the Mashaal Affair. He was invited by Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the negotiations with Palestinians on the interim agreement and permanent arrangements as well as Israeli-Jordanian relations from the opposition's viewpoint.

He also is expected to meet with the Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister. *Liat Collins*

Eskin's lawyer appealing to see client

The lawyer for right-wing activist Avigdor Eskin is to appeal a court ruling barring Eskin from meeting with him.

"The official reason is that if he meets with his lawyer, it will be a danger for national security," said Naftali Wurzburger, who said he plans to file the appeal today. "My feeling, based on cases like this in the past, is that they are conducting a very tough investigation, including beating him and not allowing him to sleep. So by removing him from society, they can play games with him and try to break him."

Eskin and Damian Pakovitch have been locked up since their arrest early Sunday morning. The two are suspected of incitement, and were remanded for six days. *Elli Wohlgelernter*

PM will not sign security document

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will refuse to sign a document negotiated between Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs under CIA auspices because he considers it flawed and unbalanced, a senior official said yesterday.

The defects and distortions relate to omission of the Palestinian Authority's obligation to extradite those suspected of terrorism or capital crimes, and to the confiscation of weaponry possessed by Israeli and Palestinian extremists.

This was described as a grave deviation from the Hebron Agreement's Note for the Record.

Netanyahu's other reason for not signing the document is that it equates Jewish militants with the suicidal terrorists of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the official went on.

Among the document's negotiators were Ami Ayalon, chief of the General Security Service, the head of the PA's security forces in Gaza, and a CIA representative. They initialed it on behalf of Israel, the PA, and the US.

Palestinian officials claimed that no security arrangement had been made with Israel, despite several recent meetings among Palestinian, Israeli and CIA officials.

Ahmed Qurie, Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council charged that the Palestinians had not accepted Israeli demands, and accused Israel of violating the peace process and the signed accords.

However Gaza Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan claimed that "what we have reached until now is an understanding with the Israelis regarding the interim phase and the demand that both sides prevent violence."

The security document calls for fulfillment of obligations by the Palestinians as stipulated in the Hebron Accord and demands that the Palestinians crack down on terrorist infrastructure and arrest Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist leaders without releasing them.

Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib contributed to this story

Ministers to get a bird's-eye view of map

By JAY BUSHINSKY and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to join his cabinet colleagues today on a helicopter tour of the West Bank. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will serve as the tour guide.

The purpose, as suggested by Sharon, is to familiarize the ministers with the topography and strategic assets of the areas under consideration for transfer to the Palestinian Authority.

Foreign Minister David Levy, one of the cabinet's most outspoken moderates, will not go along, Israel Radio reported last night.

The helicopter tour of Judea and Samaria is yet another effort to consolidate a position on the second withdrawal, Army Radio reported.

Defense sources confirmed that the ministers will be flown in IDF helicopters and will travel across the West Bank at least twice. The first sweep will be to see the defensive red lines according to a map prepared by the IDF and defense establishment, defense sources said. On a second sweep, the ministers will be shown the "national interests," according to a map prepared by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Senior IDF officers will accompany the ministers, defense sources said.

Jordan Valley settlers to protest pullback

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

As cabinet ministers tour Judea and Samaria this morning, Jordan Valley residents plan to demonstrate at the Alon junction to protest against the withdrawal and the settlement construction freeze.

Jordan Valley spokeswoman Tami Atias said that residents from Ma'aleh Ephraim are protesting the freeze, saying Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had promised them an additional 1,000 housing units when he met them this May. Residents say they are unable to provide housing for their offspring.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza is still discussing what form of action to take against the proposed withdrawal. An emergency meeting yesterday failed to reach any decisions due to the annual budget discussions.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said chairman Pinhas Wallerstein and members Uri Ariel, mayor of Beit El, and Ze'ev Hever, director of the council's Amana settlement division, still abide by their decision to try to topple the government if the withdrawal takes place.

Tayar said council members are to meet with US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Richard Roth on January 7 to discuss the Palestinians' commitments under the Oslo Accords and Hebron agreement. On November 25, the council sent the embassy a letter demanding the US pressure the Palestinians to fulfill their obligations instead of pressuring Israel.

Settlers, IDF discuss Hebron violence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Hebron settlers met with the OC Judea and Samaria Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan yesterday to discuss the recent outbreak of violence in the town.

Spokesman Noam Arnon charged that reinforcing troops would not solve the problem, as they needed to be dispersed throughout the area instead of being grouped at outposts.

Late Sunday night shots were fired at IDF troops stationed outside the Avraham Avinu Quarter. The IDF Spokesman said no one was injured and troops opened fire at a suspect seen fleeing toward the Palestinian controlled section of the city.

Palestinian sources later claimed that Adnan Jabari, 35, reached nearby Palestinian security forces with a wounded hand. Jabarri was transferred to the Aliya Hospital.

Early yesterday morning, a group of armed settlers patrolled the casbah in protest. Arnon said the settlers would not remain quiet and were assessing the situation and future actions.

While military sources did not rule out the possibility of closing Palestinian stores in the section under Israeli control if the violence intensifies, the IDF Spokesman refused to respond charging that it was against IDF policy to reveal tactics.

In an unrelated incident, a Palestinian was wounded near Nablus last night when a grenade exploded in the field he was plowing. Palestinian sources said Mahioub Dawikat picked up the grenade and apparently triggered it by mistake.



Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister David Levy chat yesterday. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Chinese FM brings message from Assad

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Assad to Jerusalem yesterday in which Damascus repeated its willingness to renew peace talks on condition that they pick up from where they left off 21 months ago.

Foreign Minister David Levy replied that "it is not correct that Israel intends to go back to the beginning if the negotiations start up again – even if it is true that there is an agreement which was reached with the previous government.

"If Syria really is interested in peace, as is Israel, it will be possible to return to the conference table while we take into account the progress made – if there was any – in certain areas. I do not understand what kind of sacrifice Syria would have to make if she were to resume the discussions with Israel on that basis."

Qian, who also holds the rank of deputy prime minister, was sparing in his public comments about the information given him during his weekend stay in Damascus. "Once you have made a commitment, it is very important to keep it," he declared at a luncheon given in his honor by Levy. Immediately afterward, he was told by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that Israel wants to go back to the negotiating table, but that it is impossible to set prior conditions.

Sources gained the impression that China is more interested in attracting investments from Israelis and the Diaspora than in being drawn into the intricacies of the peace process. "The latter barely was mentioned in Qian's session with the prime minister," one source said.

Knesset panel fails to approve 1998 state budget

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday failed to approve the 1998 state budget. This was the second consecutive day coalition disagreements prevented the budget being brought before the plenum for debate ahead of its second and third readings, scheduled for December 31.

At 4:30 p.m., chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) decided there would be insufficient time to vote on the budget, and announced the committee would reconvene at 10 this morning. The main outstanding issues are control of the basket of health services and planned cuts to child benefit payments.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman expressed confidence that the budget will eventually be approved. "On the night of December 31, there'll be votes in the Knesset. Let's wait and see what happens then. It's a very well accepted and understood process of discussions. MKs have aired suggestions which we are checking. By December 31, we very much hope there'll be a budget for the State of Israel."

Throughout the day, Shas MKs insisted they would only support the budget if Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai is given joint control of the basket of health services with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza. Hearing this, Gesher's representatives insisted Foreign Minister David Levy also have a say in the health basket.

By mid-afternoon, Ravitz said that a compromise was near. "There will be a ministerial committee for health matters under the chairmanship of the health minister, just like there is a Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs," said Ravitz. The committee would also include Yishai, Levy, and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party). The proposal was welcomed by Yitzhak Cohen (Shas).

However, the government still faces stiff opposition over planned cuts to child benefit payments totaling NIS 500 million. Those leading the fight against the cuts are Michal Kleiner (Gesher), who chairs the coalition group on the committee, and Zvi Hendel (NRP).

Kleiner claimed that coalition whip Meir Sheetrit attempted to remove him from the committee to ensure a government majority. He said that any such attempt would immediately result in David Levy's resignation.

"In any case, it's impossible for him to do this because of our coalition agreement," said Kleiner. "At the moment, there is no majority. The finance minister must compromise. With regard to child benefits, there must be a substantial compromise. I've been saying this now for four months."

The overall framework of the budget, which includes a spending cut of NIS 2.3 billion remains intact, according to senior Treasury officials. "So far we are still on course to achieve our budget deficit target," said Director-General Shmuel Slavin, referring to goal of a deficit of 2.8 percent of gross domestic product.

Branover challenges Weizman

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman yesterday officially announced that he is seeking a second term. Prof. Yirmiyahu Branover said that he will also enter the race.

At the same time, MK Shaul Amor (Likud), who has been mentioned as a possible candidate, said he has not yet decided whether to run.

Weizman met yesterday morning with Likud MKs Meir Sheetrit, Ehud Olmert, and Yehuda Lankri. After he announced his intention, Sheetrit, who is coalition faction chairman, said the party would hold a discussion on the matter in the first week of January, while Lankri, who joined Olmert in praising Weizman, said that the Gesher faction would also have to decide which candidate to support.



Yirmiyahu Branover

Olmert, however, came out strongly in favor of Weizman, saying that he hopes Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will decide that the Likud should sponsor Weizman's renomination.

"I am of the opinion that Weizman has given new and praiseworthy content to the presidency," Olmert said in an Israel Radio interview after the meeting. "He has worked toward national reconciliation at a time of deep divisions and difficult rivalries in the body politic. In this way, he has imbued the position with content and significance."

Meanwhile, the Movement for Jewish Leadership presented the candidacy of Branover at a press conference in Jerusalem.

A renowned physicist, Branover, 66, was the first of the refusenik scientists to make aliya to Israel in the early 1970s. He teaches and does research at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba.

Branover said that he had received assurances from a number of MKs that they would support him.

For his part, Amor said he had spoken to Netanyahu about his candidacy and that the prime minister had told him he had not made up his mind whom to support.

INTEL

Continued from Page 1

The innovative use by the company, based in Santa Clara, California, of microchip technology changed the computer industry.

Grove, 61, joined Intel – now worth $115 billion – when it was formed in 1968. He became president in 1979 and CEO eight years later, reported Time, whose year-end edition hit US newsstands yesterday.

Grove was born András Gróf on September 2, 1936, in Budapest. When the Germans occupied Budapest in March 1944, Grove and his mother went into hiding and lived on stolen papers. His father survived the Eastern front. When the Soviets invaded Hungary in 1956, Grove and a friend escaped to Austria. He was brought to New York by the International Rescue Committee.

Grove, who lost most of his hearing when he suffered scarlet fever as a child, got through City College of New York by lip reading and compulsive study.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

He was booed and greeted with shouts of "Bibi go home" when he first arrived, but later was applauded by residents.

"We didn't come with gimmicks," Netanyahu said. "We came with real solutions, with specific jobs in specific factories...[and] I intend to return here to make sure there are results."

During a meeting with residents, he listed one by one the companies and number of jobs that each would provide, starting with 150 jobs at the ECI Telecom plant. But even as Netanyahu toured Ofakim, one of the town's largest employers, the New Horizons textile company, announced it is moving half its production to Jordan, eliminating 100 jobs, Israel Radio reported.

Still more doubts surfaced when a senior executive of one of the employers cited by Netanyahu said his company knew nothing of the job offers the prime minister had promised in its name.

"No one asked us, no one spoke to us, and I don't know what [Netanyahu was] talking about," Hanan Greenberg, vice-president of the Bagir textile firm, told Channel 1. Greenberg said Bagir had no jobs available.

An official of the Employment Service responded that Greenberg "apparently has yet to be updated."

Foreign Minister David Levy, head of the Gesher faction, threatened yesterday to leave the government unless changes are made in the social welfare budget to deal with the problems of unemployment, health care, and housing.

"If there are not far-reaching changes that will provide an answer to these real problems, we will not be in this government. It's not a threat. It's an unequivocal announcement," Levy told Israel Radio. "We are at the moment of truth, and I will not let this situation continue."

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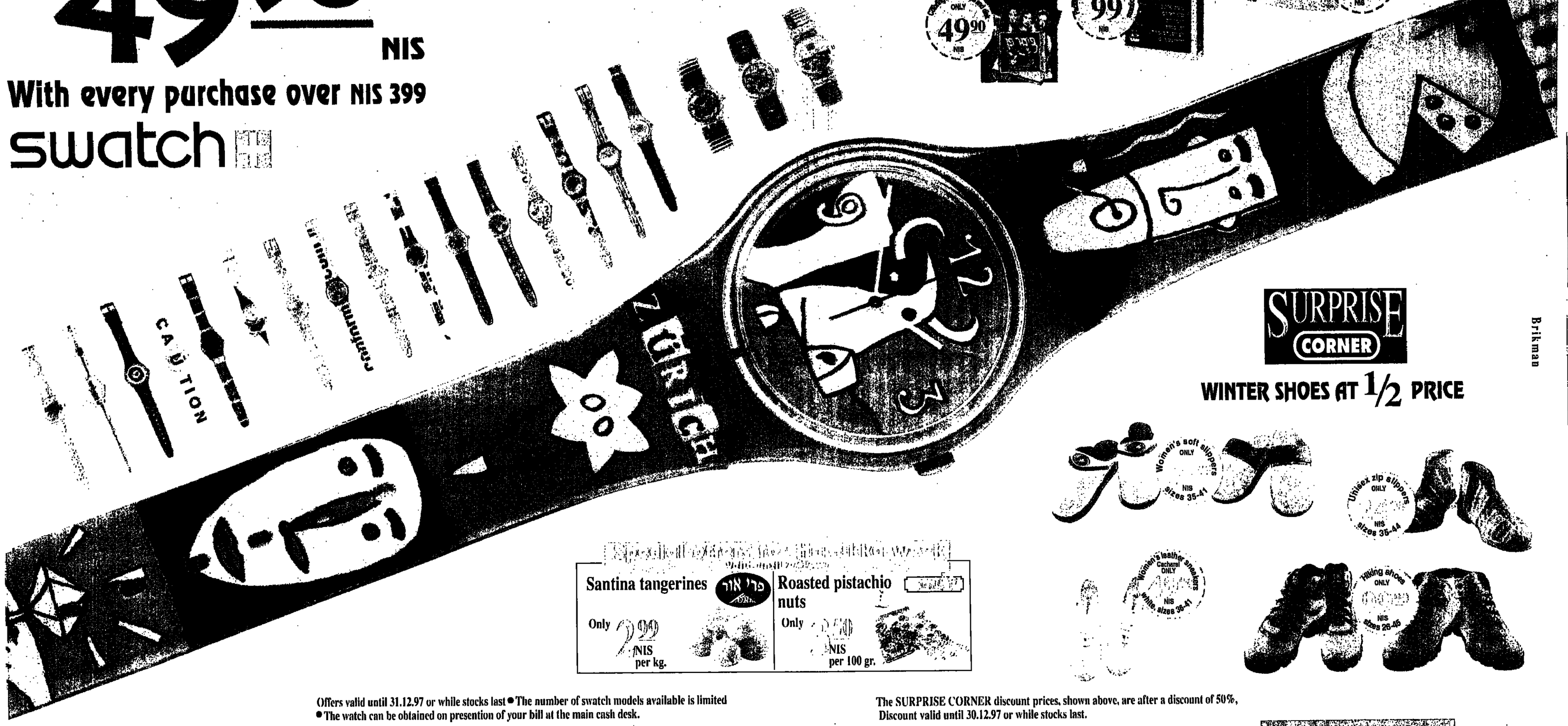
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Crisis over as Livnat, Lieberman withdraw candidacies

Shoval elected World Likud chairman

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The latest crisis in the Likud ended yesterday, when former diplomat Zalman Shoval agreed to serve as World Likud chairman after both Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Avigdor Lieberman withdrew their candidacies.

The compromise to settle on Shoval reduced the tension between the warring factions and enabled the resumption of the World Likud convention, which had erupted in violence and blows the previous day and was declared closed by outgoing chairman Ronni Milo.

Prior to choosing Shoval, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu rejected the proposal to appoint National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as World Likud chairman. The idea was raised by Livnat at the consultation with Lieberman and Milo after midnight Sunday, in an effort to find a solution to the crisis. Livnat had insisted on a "worthy" candidate and would not give in to pressures from Lieberman's side.

Lieberman's comment on the Sharon proposal was "interesting," but after seeing Netanyahu, Lieberman reported that the prime minister had rejected the proposal. The three finally agreed on Shoval, formerly Israel's ambassador in Washington. After obtaining Netanyahu's approval, they contacted Shoval in New York and secured his agreement.

The World Likud convention gathered in a subdued atmosphere yesterday, with no trace of the shoving, shouting and violent occurrences of the previous day. Likud leaders expressed shame when they saw the delegates' behavior on television and heard the voices on the radio.



Zalman Shoval

Senior Likud figures were quoted as saying "if we continue this way, we shall fall from power."

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, Likud leader for more than a decade, said yesterday morning that if the thug-like behavior in the Likud continues, it would be necessary "to form a new Likud party."

MK Dan Meridor said the real battle was not for jobs, but for the Likud's soul.

"If we've reached a stage in which Shamir is talking about the possibility of a new Likud, we must take a hard look at what has happened to us," Meridor said. "I'm glad yesterday's attempted violence failed. I hope people will learn they must stand up to violence, and uproot hooliganism like we saw yesterday and have seen on other occasions from the Likud."

Livnat said the main achievement of the compromise was blocking Lieberman's way to taking over another Likud institution, after he was forced to resign as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office over the events at the Likud convention two months ago. She said the prime minister had intervened "too early and too late" in the crisis: too early when he publicly placed himself behind Lieberman's candidacy and too late when he stepped in only after the violence had erupted and the convention already had broken up.

She said the trouble started when "democracy was trampled" at the Likud convention some two months ago, "but the lessons were not learned, nothing was done, and in today's convention the violence erupted." Livnat's decision to step down from the race for the World Likud chairmanship disappointed many in the Likud, who said she has a habit of making a courageous stand and then giving in and withdrawing at Netanyahu's request.

The convention also elected by open vote Salai Meridor as the Likud's candidate for chairman of the Jewish Agency, MK Ruby Rivlin as Likud presidium chairman and Shlomo Gravitz as the Likud's candidate for chairman of the Jewish National Fund.

Gravitz, who had Livnat and Meridor's support, defeated Lieberman's candidate, Jacques Koupfer, 148-144.

"I am very happy with the result [of the Gravitz-Koupfer election]," Meridor said. "I'm sure that everyone will accept the result and work together."

"We stopped the violence, we stopped the hooliganism. I am very happy," Livnat said after hearing the results.

Itim contributed to this report.

Likud's embers still smolder

ANALYSIS

By SARAH HONIG

Zalman Shoval, the man unanimously elected yesterday to head the World Likud, said that his first order of business would be to "find out what the World Likud is." Like most party members, this ex-MK and ambassador to Washington confessed to knowing "next to nothing about the World Likud." In the wee hours of yesterday morning Shoval was nonetheless chosen to head the Likud's esoteric sister entity, which represents it in the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, and the Jewish National Fund.

Shoval is acceptable to all Likud sides, especially to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, whom Shoval had long loyally functioned as a trusted foreign policy adviser. Shoval readily admitted that the World Likud job is not one he had his heart set on, that he had done more important things in his life and hopes for more senior appointments. He just came to the aid of his party.

Yet obviously his choice had nothing to do with the World Likud or any issues unique to it. It had everything to do with the Likud Party, which exploited the little-frequented World Likud arena to continue waging its never-ending internal feuds. The Shoval appointment was a last-minute dousing of the flames, and it worked.

As soon as the main Likud squabble was at least temporarily under control, the World Likud gathering instantly shrank back to its very diminutive natural proportions and is sure to return to its total anonymity under Shoval's stewardship.

But the local Likud's embers still continue to ominously smolder, fanned by personal ambitions and clique interests. There is no ideological divide. This week's chief antagonists – Limor Livnat and Avigdor Lieberman – are ironically in fact far more alike than popularly imagined. Both, for example, are diehard hawks, considerably to Netanyahu's right, and equally opposed to further redeployment.

But Livnat is flesh of the Likud's flesh, a representative in this case of the party princes – the baby boomers born to very prominent Fighting Family parents. Lieberman is the outsider who managed – for a while at least – to defeat the sons and daughters of the founding fathers. Like him, Netanyahu is also someone the princes look upon with disdain as an upstart.

Much of the action in the Likud in recent months is an outgrowth of this animus and of an attempt by the old party establishment to thwart any threat to its power base and future political prospects. Scrapping the primaries, as Lieberman sought to do, would have robbed the Likud's celebrities and incumbents of their natural advantage in a process which favors the rich and famous.

These, of course, are not problems unique to the Likud, though before the primaries, the party offered newcomers the best chance to climb quickly to the top. But while Labor afforded less opportunity, it was also – perhaps as a result – less volatile. It still operates mostly behind the scenes. The party forums merely rubber stamp what is decided elsewhere, as was well evident in this week's ignored World Labor Movement convention.

In the Likud the action tends to be be played out in full view of the public, with all sides appealing loudly to the audience, enlisting the media, and running to the courts. This is particularly reminiscent of the defunct Liberal Party, officially a Likud component. The Liberals, of course, had other problems – like no constituency and no ideology.

But Netanyahu dares not test the analogy too closely. Hence his advice that the Likud learn from Labor to make deals in back rooms.

Politics saps relevance of Zionist Congress

IN CONTEXT

By HERB KEINON

Were it not for the controversy and fisticuffs at the World Likud convention this week, it is doubtful many people in the country would even be aware that the 33rd Zionist Congress is opening in Jerusalem today.

Zionist congresses, once major world Jewish events, have lost much of their relevance. The shenanigans that disrupted the World Likud convention is indicative of problems plaguing the entire congress, which is the supreme governing body of the World Zionist Organization. Just as the World Likud body was a stage for political jousting within the Likud, so the Zionist congresses have turned into battlegrounds for Israeli political parties on the one hand, and Diaspora religious movements on the other.

"I don't think many people are taking notice of the congress," said Howard Weisband, who until March was the Jewish Agency's secretary general. "The only thing this congress has going for it is that it is 100 years since the First Zionist Congress. That speaks of the past, not the future – and that is what should pain us."

Weisband, who is now Bar-Ilan University's vice president for international development, said he feels there still is room for a "polity" for the Jewish people, a body that can speak to the "needs and issues of the Jewish people as a whole. I believe we need a world Jewish polity – coordination is important. There are issues of the Jewish people, as opposed to issues of the state, that the government can't decide."

But, said Weisband, who spent 11 years in the Jewish Agency, the current problem with the Zionist Congress and the WZO is that its emphasis is "focused on organizational relevancy, as opposed to peoplehood relevancy."

Half of the membership of the Jewish Agency's governing bodies are drawn from the WZO, and half from Diaspora fund-raising organizations.

Weisband said that what ails the Zionist Congress is that it has become a stage for Israeli party politics and Diaspora fund-raising politics on the other, while giving short shrift to the true issue it should be concerning itself with: "strengthening the Jewish people as a whole."

The Zionist Congress leadership, Weisband said, "has not had the foresight or wherewithal to say: 'Slow down. Let's put everything aside and see how we can create a hybrid organization that meets the needs of people, not an organization that meets the needs of the political system on this side of the ocean, and the needs of the fund-raising system on the other side of the ocean.'"

The power plays are most evident in filling leadership roles, he said. Just as the Israeli leaders of the WZO and Jewish Agency are chosen because of political expedience, the leaders from the Diaspora are chosen because of fund-raising expedience.

"Based on a contribution, an individual might rise to a position for which he is not necessarily acclimated," Weisband said, choosing his words very carefully. "Or, based on not contributing, one may not rise to a position for which he is most appropriate."

This hurts the organization, he said, because "leadership is not based on real merit," but on other – either political or fund-raising – criterion.

Into the breach

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK – When asked what his new job entails, Zalman Shoval, the newly elected chairman of World Likud, said good-naturedly: "I don't really know. I have never been active at all in the World Likud organization."

The violence at Sunday's convention in Tel Aviv "underlines the need for peacemaking," Shoval said here yesterday. "There were frictions and fractions and this could have endangered the unity of the movement at a particularly crucial time."

This was not a post he had aspired to, but it seems he made a snap decision to take it. "I gave them a very quick answer, especially as I understand that all the different parties in the Likud wanted me to take the job," Shoval said. "It doesn't happen very often, especially not lately, that anyone is elected unanimously."

Although he is not sure how he is going to be the Likud peacemaker, Shoval said it would help that he is known not to belong to a particular camp in the party. "Nor is it my ambition obviously to make a career for myself in the Jewish Agency," said Shoval, who had refused the jobs of chairman of the Jewish Agency and director-general of the Prime Minister's Office.

"This is not, career-wise, anything I was looking for," he said. "Maybe this will bring people to their senses."

Shoval, a former ambassador to the US, seemed sanguine as he prepared to leave New York. "I have faced more onerous or difficult jobs in the past," he said. "I never look back. I always look forward."

Eitan's report on Likud convention slams Lieberman

By SARAH HONIG

Science Minister Michael Eitan yesterday submitted his report on November's ill-fated Likud convention to the party comptroller. In it Eitan charges that fraud and illegal means were employed to scrap the party primaries.

The Likud comptroller was chosen to investigate the convention goings-on after the appointed inquiry committee resigned. This happened because Eitan's membership in the committee was challenged on the grounds that he was one of the chief combatants in the dispute and had gone on record as expressing extremely one-sided opinions.

In his report, Eitan openly admits that he speaks for no one but himself and that the report is his handiwork alone.

As could be expected, Eitan targeted former Prime Minister's Office director- general Avigdor Lieberman, whose immediate resignation Eitan had vociferously demanded even before the convention drew to a close.

Eitan writes that "a group of activists headed by Lieberman conspired to do away with the Likud's Knesset primaries. To achieve their goal, they resorted to fraud, breach of trust, and improper and unauthorized use of state and party resources."

Eitan further charges that Likud director-general Rami Navon consciously worked to further Lieberman's interests, despite his sure knowledge that he was thereby "violating the confidence of other party members."

Lieberman even tampered with the convention delegates' list, padding it with relatives of his closest supporters, Eitan alleges. Thus the parents, wife, and sister of convention presidium chairman Yisrael Katz were delegates, as were relatives of Morris Nissan. Both Katz and Nissan are among Lieberman's cronies.

But Eitan admits to having no proof. He charges that Navon shredded the paperwork.

Eitan further accuses Navon of having foiled his attempts to rent a pavilion at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, the convention venue. The Likud administration rented them all, and let the pro-Lieberman group have one.



Hoping for a miracle

An Alzheimer's patient lights a Hanukka candle opposite the Knesset yesterday as part of a protest against the government's failure to include tacrine, a drug that slows deterioration of dementia, in the basket of health services. The placard held up by the woman next to him reads: 'Health Minister, You promised and forgot!' Health Minister Yehoshua Matza lit a candle, too, and pledged to deal with the problem personally.

(Text: Judy Siegel; photo: Isaac Harari)

Shahal still reconsidering resignation

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

MK Moshe Shahal (Labor) told the Labor faction meeting yesterday he would soon decide whether or not to go ahead with his planned resignation from the Knesset. Shahal said he was "embarrassed and moved" by a petition signed by 83 MKs from both opposition, and coalition calling on him to reconsider his decision.

Shimon Peres called Shahal: "One of the greatest parliamentarians this House has known." Ehud Barak called on him to "Reconsider! Stay with us!"

New Sergeant-at-Arms

The Knesset House Committee, chaired by Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) yesterday unanimously endorsed the appointment of Avi Sagiv, formerly a deputy commissioner in the Prison Service, as Knesset Sergeant-at-Arms. He replaces Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, who retired last year after a long term in the post.

Wall prayer bill

Meretz MKs Ran Cohen and Anat Maor have submitted a bill which would establish in law that: "All Jews have the right to hold services and prayers according to their beliefs at the Western Wall and the Western Wall Plaza."

This would allow non-Orthodox Jews to hold services there.

Maor and Cohen said the bill aims "to make the Western Wall once more the property of the whole Jewish people."

The killing fields

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) is threatening to prosecute the Nature Reserves Authority if it does not stop what he called the "mass killings" of animals during the current rabies scare.

Poraz this week sent a letter to NRA director Shaike Erez, stressing that despite the seriousness of the disease, there are better ways of dealing with it than killing animals in large-scale operations.

"I ask that you immediately inform me the government will stop the mass killings of animals; that it is immediately implementing a program of oral rabies vaccinations [for wildlife] and is undertaking a large public information campaign on the need for vaccinations," Poraz wrote.

Erez said in response that the NRA is "not carrying out mass killings of animals but only reducing the population of those animals which could transmit the disease near human settlements. In the settlements themselves, the [Agriculture Ministry's] Veterinary Services are responsible for handling rabies issues. We are continuing our efforts to mobilize funds to further the use of vaccine baits [oral vaccinations] for wildlife to prevent the spread of rabies."

Bring 'em back

MK Ophir Pines (Labor), who coordinates the opposition work in the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, has written to Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal to inform them of the proposals adopted at the World Labor Movement Convention.

He said although the convention had rejected by a small majority his proposal to stop using the term *yordim* for Israelis who have left the country, several important decisions been made, the most significant of which was the recommendation that the Jewish Agency take on the handling of Israelis abroad, rather than the government.

He said he supported Katsav's call to try to bring Israelis back to mark the state's 50th anniversary. Pines proposed that returning Israelis receive the rights of new immigrants if they return in the jubilee year and remain for at least 10 years.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Explosive convention

The press provided an abundance of commentary on the "covert" motives of the participants in the recent battle at the World Likud convention.

Yediot Aharonot's Nahum Barnea claims that the convention provided yet another arena for the power struggles between the Limor Livnat camp, including the Likud veterans, and the Avigdor Lieberman camp, namely Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Current chairman Ronni Milo "has no personal ambitions here, except for the joy of presenting the Likud, and Netanyahu at its head, as a wild mob, with no leader."

He adds that Lieberman entered the battle "only to prove that he could kick the veterans out; it doesn't matter from where, as long as its out."

In her article "World Likud – international shame," *Ma'ariv*'s Sima Kadmon addresses the forcefulness of Lieberman and his supporters that led him to fail. "Lieberman showed the convention what he knows and this is what he knows," she writes, concluding that Livnat and Milo "let him fall into every possible pit, one after the other until the the very last; and in the evening, Milo covered the last one and went home."

"The riot surrounding the leadership of the World Likud... is the remnant of the veteran's rebellion," claims *Ha'aretz*'s Akiva Eldar. He adds that Livnat has changed her tactic in her fight against Netanyahu: "She shoots Lieberman, but actually aims higher, at the prime minister."

Anti-unemployment budget

"It is obvious... that we are dealing with a ticking social time bomb whose fuse is getting shorter," writes *Ma'ariv*'s Yosef Lapid, referring to Netanyahu's visit to Ofakim yesterday. According to Lapid, it is imperative that Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman be able to pass the budget which will allow the renewal of economic growth, but unfortunately "it naturally serves as an umbrella for demagogues such as Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai... who are only interested in immediate solutions that will draw public sympathy."

Ha'aretz's Zvi Barel supports the idea of closing down Ofakim and giving its population a chance to start over in more promising cities. "Ofakim is one of the tragedies of the 1950s, of a plan to disperse the population and settle the Negev, a vision that has no bearing to reality." He adds that "the closing of a town and the ending of its life may be sad, but the lives of its citizens are more important."

"Demand for workers grows and unemployment declines only when the government transfers budgets to investments in physical and social infrastructures," states *Yediot*'s Sever Plotzker.

American mandate

"For the first time in the history of the state (or history worldwide), the Central Intelligence Agency will have a new role – it will become the arbiter of the most vital issues for Israel's security," states Elyakim Ha'etzni in *Yediot*, protesting against an agreement that the CIA will provide estimates and decide on whether the Palestinians and Israelis are enforcing mutual agreements. "This represents a loss of sovereignty; in the 50th year after our liberation from the British Mandate, we are entering the burden of the American mandate."

Ha'aretz's Eldar points to a paradox: "Netanyahu, who once worked very hard to kill the idea of American soldiers in the Golan Heights... has given the CIA the right to decide upon security regulations in the heart of the Land of Israel."

33rd Zionist Congress opens today

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The 33rd Zionist Congress opens today at Jerusalem's International Convention Center with over 750 delegates from Jewish communities throughout the world participating in discussions on a variety of matters related to Jewish education, immigration and absorption, and other issues.

Key positions within the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund and World Zionist Organization are also to be filled at the congress. Elections of the chairman and members of the Zionist Executive are slated for 4 p.m. today. President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are scheduled to participate in a program tonight. Batya Arad, mother of missing air force navigator Ron Arad, will light the first Hanukka candle.

Generally, the Congress meets every four years. The last meeting was in 1992, but because 1997 marks the 100th anniversary of the first Congress, it was decided to put the 33rd Congress off a year.

Only 503 delegates are eligible to vote. Of these, 190 come from Israel, 145 from the US, and the remainder from the rest of the world. According to World Zionist Organization bylaws, 38% of those eligible to vote are from Israel, 29% from the US, and 33% from the rest of the world. The numbers and representation of those who do not have voting rights are determined according to requests made by specific Jewish organizations.

The 190 Israeli delegates are divided according to their representation in the Knesset, but they include only representatives of Zionist parties. Haredim and Arabs are not represented.

The delegations are divided as follows: There is a Labor-Meretz bloc, a Likud bloc; a Reform grouping; one from Mizrahi, one from the Conservative-Masorti movement, and one from the World Confederation of United Zionists, which is allied with The Third Way and Yisrael Ba'aliya. The Israeli delegates to these blocs are chosen by the political parties just prior to the Congress, which is what this week's furor in the Likud was all about.

The US delegates were selected in elections earlier this year in which about 110,000 people participated. In those elections, the Reform and Conservative movements significantly increased their strength.

The key posts to be filled at the congress include the chairman and the members of the Zionist Executive. The portfolios within the executive include aliya, education, and other areas, that command large budgets and a great deal of power. Discussions have already been held regarding limiting the authority of those who will eventually hold these positions, some of which are new, part of the restructuring of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency.

The actual election of the officials could be an afterthought. As is often the case, agreements have reportedly been reached between the parties regarding several key positions, including that of chairman: According to the agreement between Labor and the Likud, current chairman Avraham Burg is to serve for another two years, before being replaced by Salai Meridor, currently head of the Settlement Division in the WZO.

A new head of the Jewish National Fund is to be appointed, and the rotation agreement calls for that post to go to the Likud. However, Labor delegates are strongly opposed to the head of the French Likud delegation, Jacques Koupfer, and have threatened to scuttle the rotation agreement if he is given the post.

Salai Meridor is reportedly backing Shlomo Gravetz for this post. Labor's candidate, who would take over in two years when Meridor takes over as chairman of the executive, is Yehiel Leket.

The Jewish Agency treasurer is also supposed to rotate in two years, with current treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda expected to continue as the Likud's choice for now, although there have been reports Meridor might seek the position for himself. There are also rumors Meridor might take the Keren Hayesod helm for the initial two-year period.

Politics aside, Zionist ideology will be discussed at the gathering. Burg, for example, is eager to have the WZO make a greater effort to encourage immigration from the West.



Yoram Eyal (left) and other Maccabi officials hold a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Reuters)

Maccabiah indictments called 'small step'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Adam Zines, whose father was killed in the Maccabiah bridge collapse in August, was not very impressed by the indictments handed down yesterday for the disaster.

"It's only a small step," he said by telephone from Australia. "You've got to get to the result. Indictments don't mean anything if the guys are let off. This is the first step, but at least it's a step in the right direction. Let's just hope the courts take over and find a way to actually reduce some of the strain that we've been under.

"I am I guess satisfied that someone from Maccabi World Union has been indicted, but equally I'm not going to be satisfied until he's been dealt with accordingly."

As for the delays in filing the indictments, Zines said: "It has taken some time, but hopefully the actual judicial process can prove that this delay was necessary to prepare a strong case against these five people. Notwithstanding that, there could be others who should potentially be indicted from the Maccabi World Union."

Zines said yesterday's resignations by Maccabi officials Yoram Eyal and Itamar Herman was just "something to make them look good. They are not out of the organization. Until somebody from Maccabi World Union stands up and says: 'We are terribly sorry for what happened, we've made a terrible mistake, we underestimated our own abilities,' and comes out and publicly says that they will do everything in their power to find out who was responsible for it and seek their immediate resignation, I'm going to be far from satisfied.

"Ever since the accident happened they've said: 'We're not responsible, it was the builder.' The builder said: 'We're not responsible, it's the engineer.' The engineer said: 'It's the builder.' Somebody's responsible. And I believe that the Maccabi World Union had the sole, autonomous authority to build this bridge. Three weeks before the opening ceremony, they were still looking around to see who would build the bridge. To say they did everything in their power to ensure the safety of the athletes is a farce."

Zines said that the victims would still have to wait until someone is convicted before they can file damage suits. His father, Warren, died from swallowing toxic water, he said, and a civil case might be brought against the Israeli water authorities in the future.

"I really want to say to the Israeli people that something good can be made of this tragedy," Zines said. "With their support and the support of the government, we will fight this and insure that accidents like this don't happen again."

He added that the "warmth and support of the Israeli public has been overwhelming." Some 1,200 faxes from the general public had been received by the victims and their families.

"We're glad they picked up one big fish in Eyal," Colin Elterman, whose daughter Sacha was seriously injured in the accident, said yesterday of the indictments.

Elterman blasted the Maccabi World Union's two-day meeting on the bridge disaster.

"They flew 30 people into Israel, probably first or business class. If that money had been spent on the bridge, we wouldn't be in the situation we're in, for starters.

"At the end of the day, what did they decide? Two people resigned from the subcommittees they were on but not from the executive. They also decided to conduct their own internal investigation. They're investigating themselves, which is like having Dracula investigate the blood bank."

Elterman said the families wanted the Maccabi World Union officials to all "step aside" and a temporary administration set up until Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled has a chance to arrange an independent investigation, something the families have been demanding. Elterman said his daughter was making some progress.

NEWS
in brief

Kinneret low despite recent rainfall

The water level in Lake Kinneret is still far below what it was at this time last year, despite the recent rains.

"The level has only risen by 10 centimeters since the beginning of the winter, mainly as a result of the last lot of rainfall," said Lake Kinneret Authority chairman Zvi Ortenberg.

He said the mark it had reached yesterday, 212.14 m. below sea level, was only 86 cm. above the minimum level of 213 m. below sea level. Ortenberg said that the amount of precipitation in the north generally, and the Kinneret's catchment area in particular, had been relatively light so far.

"There's no reason for panic when we are in December and there are still three months of winter in front of us," he said.

"Nevertheless, the picture, at this stage, is not very good, as anyone who travels around the lake can see. The level is low." *David Rudge*

Knesset committee debates culture budget

Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann yesterday promised the panel would do all it can to increase the culture budget. MK Rafi Elul (Labor) said the solution is the transfer of funds from the Sportoto, "as is done in other countries like England, which led to cultural development."

Cameri Theater general manager Noam Semel agreed, noting that the ministry had cut the culture budget by 10% last year, which led other bodies supporting the arts to make similar cuts. Zissman pledged to allot NIS 5 million to the Antiquities Authority and said the budget for local cinema would soon be buoyed by special legislation. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Hanukka party for young cancer patients

Characters from *The Flintstones* cartoon series will be featured at a Hanukka party given by Whispers of the Heart, an organization dedicated to cancer-stricken children, at the Laromme Hotel in Jerusalem tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the hotel in cooperation with Turner Entertainment Networks International, whose Cartoon Network is the home of *The Flintstones*. During the event, Whispers of the Heart will be presented with invitations for four children to attend actor Paul Newman's "Hole in the Wall Gang" summer camp for seriously ill children. More than 70 children and their families will attend the party. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Postal rates up 6.5%

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset Economics Committee yesterday approved a hike of postal rates by an average of 6.5%, but said they would be in effect for only three months. Committee chairman MK Avi Yehezkel demanded that in the interim, a public committee be appointed to propose a new structure for postal charges.

Postal Authority Director-General Moshe Tery told the committee that the rate hike is 2.6% below the increase in the Cost-of-Living Index and was necessary to cover increased costs. All the new rates go into effect today.

While the cost of a regular domestic letter of up to 20 grams or a postcard was increased from NIS 1.10 to NIS 1.15, the charge for sending a fax abroad has been cut drastically from NIS 20.10 (for the first page) to NIS 11.50, with every additional page costing NIS 5 instead of NIS 10.10.

The cost of a package (up to 20 kg.) to soldiers is NIS 7.60 instead of NIS 7.10, while an aerogram is NIS 1.40 instead of NIS 1.30. A package of up to one kg. sent inside Israel now costs NIS 9.80, up from NIS 9.10. A regular air letter to the US costs NIS 2.20, up from NIS 2, and to Europe NIS 1.80, up from NIS 1.70. A regular telegram inside Israel is NIS 22.90, compared to the previous NIS 19.90.

Zionist youth convening in capital

While their elders open the Zionist Congress today at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, 160 young people will be launching the World Zionist Congress for Youth at the Jerusalem Gates Hotel.

Forty of the delegates represent the Zionist Youth Council, student, and youth organizations in Israel, while the others are from the US, England, Belgium, Hungary, Turkey, Yugoslavia, France, and other nations.

Among the issues to be discussed at the conference, being sponsored by the World Zionist Organization's Youth and Hehalutz Department, are Israel's relations with its neighbors in light of the peace negotiations; whether young Jews are obligated to immigrate to Israel; the centrality of Israel; the Law of Return and the conversion bill; and maintaining the continuity of the Jewish people. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

ACCIDENT

Continued from Page 1

Eyal's story typifies what happens to drivers who kill out of negligence, says Yaffa Bichovsky, a social worker and head of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Adult Probation Office for the Tel Aviv district. In the last eight years, some 200 such drivers, including Eyal, have come into her office for group therapy. It's part of their sentence.

"All of them talk about committing suicide; they see it as an escape. But so far none of them has done it. They say they don't want to cause more suffering. They say, 'My punishment is to stay alive,'" she explains.

"Who are the dead? Often someone in the car with the driver – his child, his wife, his grandmother. With young people, it's often a close friend," Bichovsky says, noting that some 90 percent of the drivers she's counseled have been men.

"Many times they've seen the dead body after the crash – broken up, in pieces on the road. They block this out of their minds. But it comes back to them in nightmares.

"They try not to go to sleep; they sit up watching TV until the middle of the night. Or they work all day and night in the hope that afterward they'll fall fast asleep and not have to lay in bed for hours, thinking, and maybe they'll sleep so soundly that that they won't dream," Bichovsky continues.

"Some quit their jobs and move to another city. They stop seeing their friends. If they're single, they stop going out with women. If they're married, they may not have sex with their wives for years. They feel they don't deserve to enjoy anything. They say, 'My life stopped on the day of the accident.'"

The worst of Eyal's symptoms have passed, but he still has frequent sleepless nights. Some days he doesn't eat, and some days he eats ravenously. During and after the spate of terror bus bombings early last year, he had a recurring dream.

"People were getting on a bus that I had bought, that belonged to me, and then the bus blew up. You understand? I was guilty."

IT'S NO ACCIDENT

By Larry Derfner

At the time of the accident, Eyal and the woman soldier had been driving near Ramallah. Because of the danger of being stoned or firebombed, people driving through the territories aren't required to wear seat belts, and Eyal and the woman soldier weren't wearing them. Until that day, Eyal says he'd never caused an accident, and had gotten one traffic ticket – for failure to wear a seat belt.

He had passed a truck and, as he was returning to his lane, he lost control of the car and it overturned. He was acquitted by a military court, but the IDF prosecutors appealed, and he was later found guilty. But because expert witnesses were divided in their conclusions – there were no eyewitnesses – he received a relatively light sentence: his driver's license was suspended for 18 months and he was ordered to do 45 days' community service.

"I didn't care when they found me innocent and I didn't care when they found me guilty. I wanted to go to jail; I wanted them to make me pay," he says.

This, too, is typical, says Bichovsky.

"The drivers want to go to jail," she says. "They feel that if somebody punishes them, maybe they can stop punishing themselves."

Though the maximum penalty for vehicular homicide is 20 years' imprisonment, Bichovsky says few of the drivers she's counseled have gone to jail. Most had their licenses suspended for years and received heavy fines.

Eyal says he doesn't know in his own mind if he was really guilty or not, and that this doesn't matter to him, anyway.

"The steering wheel was in my hand. I was the one in control," he stresses. "I could have slowed down, I could have braked. I could have done something to avoid the accident, but I did nothing."

When counseling drivers who've killed, Bichovsky says she becomes "hysterical" behind the wheel, frightened to death of causing an accident herself.

"I sit face to face with these drivers and I identify with them," she says. "I realize the same thing could happen to me. These are normal people who got careless."

Asked why he wanted to tell his story, Eyal says: "I want people who drive recklessly to understand that if they kill somebody, they won't be able to put it behind themselves and go on as before. You can't replace the life you took. It's the most horrible thing. It's like you wake up every morning in darkness, and spend the rest of the day looking for little specks of light."

In group therapy, Bichovsky says, drivers who have killed learn to face what they've done, realize they're not alone, and become "functional" again.

"But I tell them their pain and guilt will be with them for good. They may learn why they're having nightmares, and the nightmares may lessen, but they don't go away. These people will never be free from what they've done. This is one thing time doesn't heal."

Last of a four-part series.

Where to eat in Israel

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TANDOORI Indian Restaurant – The only restaurant in Israel where price SHAKES HANDS with QUALITY and quantity smiles. Live traditional Indian dancing daily. King's Wharf Lagoona Hotel. Tel./Fax. 07-633 879, 636 6674. Open noon-3:30 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight

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A light to the nations

By HELEN KAYE

The candle lighting at the President's Residence tonight to celebrate the first light of Hanukka is one of many similar ceremonies occurring throughout the world to inaugurate the beginning of Israel's Jubilee year.

President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will light the first candle before an audience including representatives from the Ethiopian community. The ceremony will include the arrival of a torch carried in relays by Maccabi runners direct from Modi'in, home of the original Maccabis.

Following the approximately 30 minute ceremony, Netanyahu and Weizman will continue on to the Jerusalem International Convention Center for the opening ceremony at 8:30 p.m. of the World Zionist Congress, which this year marks not only the state's Jubilee but a century of Zionism which the first congress at Basel inaugurated.

Around the world, some 33 heads of state, prime ministers and other dignitaries will light the first Hanukka candle in their nations' capitals. Because of the time difference, Australian Prime Minister John Howard was the first. Later today, US President Bill Clinton will light the candle in the Oval Office accompanied by students from a Jewish school in Washington.



Talya lights the first Hanukka candle, as Ro'i (c) and Tal watch, at a Hanukka party at their gan last week. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

In Rome, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro will light his candle under the Arch of Titus. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav will be there too, after attending a similar ceremony at the Vatican.

Other world leaders lighting candles include Presidents Jacques Chirac of France and Eduard Shevardnadze of Georgia, Vaclav Havel from the Czech Republic, German President Roman Herzog, Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schiessel, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretian and the UK's Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The hanukkia at these ceremonies was made for the occasion and is a copy of that belonging to a seventh-generation Jerusalem family.

World Jubilee Committee chairmen Merv Edelson and Marvin Josephson said that the candle-lighting ceremony at the White House is "the opening kick to a year celebrating the short but very special history of Israel, and a reminder of the desire for a people's continuity despite hardship, especially at a time when Jews the world over are commemorating the rededication of their Temple."

Midnight Mass to be broadcast in Hebrew

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israeli television viewers will be able to follow this year's midnight mass in Bethlehem tomorrow night, with explanations in Hebrew, thanks to a Saudi-owned television network, an official of the Latin Patriarchate said yesterday.

Wadei Abu Nassar, media adviser to Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, said that the right to broadcast the mass had been acquired from the Palestinian Authority by Arab Radio and Television (ART), a private company owned by a Saudi national. ART had, in turn, allowed the Second Channel to broadcast the service for what Abu Nassar described as a nominal sum.

Abu Nassar, who is to provide the vocal explanations, said that he insisted that these be in Hebrew, in addition to Arabic.

"I want Jews to know what is going on, as well as Arabs," he said.

Channel 1 is to broadcast the midnight mass from the Greek Catholic Church in Nazareth, with an Arabic explanation.

In a pre-Christmas press conference in Jerusalem yesterday, Sabbah told all extremists – Jews, Moslems, or Christians – that they are "not condemned to exclusion of the others, and hence to extremism and violence." Concerning what Sabbah described as a "world campaign" to stress Moslem persecution of Christians, he said that the governments of all the Arab countries are attentive to the issue of Christian rights, but he said incidents between individuals or lower level officials could occur.

Conservative Beit Midrash ordains two women rabbis

By Jerusalem Post Staff

More than 60 students received degrees last night at the commencement exercises of the Beit Midrash – Seminary of Judaic Studies held in Jerusalem.

The Beit Midrash is an affiliate of New York's Jewish Theological Seminary and is the academic center of Conservative (Masorti) Judaism here.

The program was devoted to the issue of religious pluralism in Israel, and featured newly appointed rector Dr. Alice Shalvi, JTS chancellor Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Beit Midrash president Rabbi Benjamin Segal, and Third Way MK Alex Lubotsky.

Two of the five rabbinic ordainees – Tamar Kohlberg and Amy Levin – are women. In addition, two master's degrees in the interdisciplinary fields of Jewish studies and women's and gender studies were awarded to Noa Shashar-Ettun and Miriam Perry.

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Clinton to Balkans: Peace is up to you

SARAJEVO (AP) – Under tight security in this war-scarred city, US President Bill Clinton said yesterday that the US is proud of its role in resurrecting the crippled region but said "the future is up to you – not the Americans, not the Europeans, not to anyone else."

Clinton exulted in the new face of Sarajevo, bustling with people and cafes and thriving business, a few short years after the guns were silenced.

He met with Bosnia's federation of leaders and described his message to them: "You owe it to your country to bring out the best in people, acting in concert, not conflict, overcoming obstacles, not creating them, rising above petty disputes, not fueling them." Clinton said he encountered a group of soldiers from Virginia and one of the troops told him, "These are good people and this is a good thing we're doing."

Clinton was visiting the American base in Tuzla later in the day, to thank the 8,000 US troops who learned last week their stay here will be indefinite.

"We in the United States are proud of our role in Bosnia's new beginning," he said.

For the most part, though, Clinton's speech in Sarajevo was directed at Bosnia's people and its quarrelsome leaders.

To the people, he said: "You must make your desire for peace and the common future clear to the leaders of each group." To the three members of Bosnia's collective presidency, he said they were responsible for rebuilding the government and for turning the 1995 Dayton peace accords into reality.

"In the end, the future is up to you, not to the Americans, not to the Europeans, not to anyone else," he said.



US President Bill Clinton shakes hands with Bosnian counterpart Alija Izetbegovic as US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright applauds during their visit to Sarajevo yesterday. (Reuters)

Of their responsibility, Clinton said, "Those who shirk it will isolate themselves. The world, which continues to invest in your peace rightfully expects that you will do your part. More importantly, the people of this country expect results and they deserve them."

Clinton reminded the three ethnic groups – Croats, Serbs and Muslims – that the US itself has more than 180 different ethnic groups living in peace – and challenged them to follow America's example.

Clinton sought to put the Bosnian conflict into a global context, comparing it to tensions in the Middle East, Central America and elsewhere.

"None of us has the moral standing to look down on another, and we should stop it," he said to thunderous applause.

The president was clearly moved by what he'd seen in the city. He described the war years during which people ran a gauntlet of snipers and shells in search of water and food, noting, "Now they walk in security to work and school."

Clinton and his family stopped by a coffee shop near the Markale marketplace, the site of devastating shelling in 1994 and 1995, and said the local people there told him, "Stay for a while longer."

En route to Bosnia, Clinton told reporters that his message to officials in private meetings would be blunt: "The future of the country is still in their hands. ... In the end, they've got to behave."

Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, said Clinton "went leader by leader, name by name, and was very tough, telling them they have to do their part."

Clinton acknowledged last week that it was a mistake to promise a troop withdrawal by June 1998 and announced that American peacekeeping forces would stay in Bosnia with no set deadline.

Clinton's grueling 36-hour tour, with his wife and daughter in tow, visited some of the most wretched ghosts of Bosnia's bloody four-year civil war.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin tells reporters yesterday at the Barvikha sanatorium, where he has been hospitalized for nearly two weeks with a chest infection, that he has fully recovered and plans to return to the Kremlin today. (Reuters)

Yeltsin determined to resume work

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Boris Yeltsin, worried by problems building up on several fronts in Russia, is determined to return to the Kremlin today after nearly two weeks' treatment for a chest infection.

"Tomorrow I'm going back to the Kremlin and to work. There are no traces of the illness left," Yeltsin said yesterday before talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in the sanatorium where he has been convalescing since December 10.

"Viktor Chernomyrdin and I have many issues to discuss," said Yeltsin, looking tired in brief television footage.

Yeltsin, who has said he has been working on papers for four hours a day at the elite Barvikha sanatorium, is determined to push the government into meeting his pledge to pay off huge wage arrears to public sector workers by the end of the year.

He also knows his return to the Kremlin would help calm local financial markets stricken by investors' flight from developing economies worldwide due to problems in Asia.

A standoff between his government and its communist opponents in the lower house of parliament over next year's budget and renewed squabbling among powerful interest groups over privatization are also crying out for his intervention.

But his doctors, haunted by the heart attacks he suffered before bypass surgery just over a year ago, are urging the 66-year-old president to take it easy.

Chief Kremlin doctor Sergei Mironov told a news conference on Friday Yeltsin's heart was fine but that he wanted him to stay in the Barvikha sanatorium until tomorrow at the earliest.

But Kremlin spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said it was hard to resist the president's determination to get back to work.

Yeltsin's office said he and Chernomyrdin talked for more than 90 minutes yesterday, discussing the financial situation, including next year's budget, and confirming the cash-strapped government's commitment to pay the wage arrears.

China, S. Africa to establish relations

PRETORIA (AP) – China and South Africa will formally establish diplomatic relations on New Year's Day, cementing ties – at the expense of Taiwan – that are already strong economically.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his South African counterpart, Alfred Nzo, will sign the agreement on December 30. It takes effect two days later, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

South Africa, the largest and most influential of the 30 countries that recognize Taiwan, will concurrently be severing diplomatic relations with Taiwan, the island China regards as a rebel province. That represents a major victory in Beijing's 48-year campaign to diplomatically isolate Taiwan.

However, President Nelson Mandela's government plans to maintain the highest level of relations short of official ties with Taiwan. The Taiwanese Embassy in Pretoria will keep operating in all but name after diplomatic relations are cut, according to Taiwanese officials.

A ceremony opening a Chinese embassy in Pretoria will be held on New Year's Day.

China is South Africa's sixth-largest trading partner. Direct trade between the two countries is expected to reach $1.6 billion this year, in addition to the $1.4 billion in trade South Africa conducts with Hong Kong.

During his five-day stay in South Africa, Qian, who is also China's vice premier, will meet Mandela and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, before departing on January 1, the Foreign Ministry said.

Italian judge says no trial for PM Prodi

By NICOLA LOMBARDO

ROME (Reuters) – An Italian judge ruled yesterday that Prime Minister Romano Prodi will not stand trial for his role in a controversial food group privatization before he took office, saying charges of alleged wrongdoing did not stand up.

"The judge decided not to proceed with the case against Prodi and the others charged because there is no case to answer," his lawyer Paola Severino told reporters.

Examining Judge Eduardo Landi's decision brings to an end a year-long committal hearing considering prosecution requests to put Prodi on trial for abuse of office and conflict of interest when he was chairman of state holding IRI in 1993.

Landi said there was also no case to answer for five other members of the then IRI board, including Mario Draghi, who now is director-general of the Treasury. They had faced charges of abuse of office.

Prodi declined to comment to reporters. "I'm not getting into legal questions about Cirio," he said.

The charges concerned the privatization of food company Cirio-Bertolli-De Rica in October 1993 and centred on the sale of Cirio, a popular brand of canned tomatoes, oil, and other foods, to a little-known southern consortium, Fis.Vi, for 310 billion lire ($178 million).

Fis.Vi soon afterwards sold the olive oil interests, Bertolli, to the Anglo-Dutch group Unilever, for which Prodi had worked as a consultant.

Fis.Vi subsequently passed Cirio to Italian businessman Sergio Cragnotti. Prodi has denied there was any conflict of interest in his relationship with Unilever, saying he cut ties with the group in May 1993 when he became IRI chairman.

"The transaction was correct," Fis.Vi chairman Carlo Saverio Lamiranda told reporters after the judge had issued his decision. "Justice has been done."

Landi suspended the hearing last March to allow a panel of accounting, commercial law, and management experts to examine prosecutors' charges that Prodi and his five colleagues gave Cirio's buyer an unfair advantage.

All defendants had denied the allegations and the experts' report concluded that the price paid for Cirio was "more than fair."

WORLD

in brief

Tibet said to be "under alien subjugation"

The respected International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said yesterday that Chinese-ruled Tibet was "under alien subjugation" and called for a United Nations-run referendum to decide its future status. The Geneva-based body, which works to defend the rule of law around the globe, declared in a major report that the autonomy Beijing argues is enjoyed by Tibetans was fictitious and that real power lay in Chinese hands. "It is to maintain its alien and unpopular rule that China has sought to suppress Tibetan nationalist dissent and extinguish Tibetan culture," said ICJ Secretary-General Adama Dieng. *Reuters*

Child falls to death from Golden Gate Bridge

A 2-year-old girl sightseeing on the Golden Gate Bridge with her family slipped through a gap of the protective railing and plunged 55 meters to her death. The accident occurred Sunday afternoon as the girl, her 4-year-old brother and parents walked along the bridge. The youngster apparently was walking next to the bridge railing when she fell through a 24-cm. gap — just wide enough for a child to slip through. When paramedics arrived, the girl was not breathing but had a pulse as she lay on a dirt construction site. She was airlifted to Children's Hospital in Oakland and was pronounced dead. *AP*

Carlos the Jackal may get a life sentence

A French prosecutor yesterday said he may request a life sentence for the man known as Carlos the Jackal because of aggravating circumstances in the triple murder he is accused of committing. Prosecutor Gino Necchi indicated to the jury he could ask for a penalty tougher than the standard 30-year sentence after the court heard 22-year-old depositions from eyewitnesses to the murders. Earlier, Judge Yves Corneloup rejected defense lawyers' demand for a delay in the trial, requested to give them a chance to summon three eyewitnesses to the 1975 slayings. Those witnesses are currently not in France. Such a delay would have prolonged the already tardy 7-day-old trial of the Venezuelan-born Ilich Ramirez Sanchez. The trial was originally scheduled to end last week but is now expected to wind up today. *AP*

Nigerian "coup plot" arrests highlight divisions

The arrest of the deputy of Nigerian military ruler Gen. Sani Abacha for plotting a coup has underlined divisions in the army and could further stir the cauldron of ethnic mistrust, political analysts said yesterday. "Clearly for the number two to be arrested it points to some division within the military, which is not going to be helpful in light of next year's elections," said one senior Western source. "It is a critical time." Initial public response was muted after the arrest of Lieutenant General Oladipo Diya and 11 others at the weekend for plotting a coup. It was business as usual in cities across Nigeria and there was no apparent tightening of security. *Reuters*

Brooklyn Bridge for sale

Since it opened in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge has been a symbol for a sucker, the gullible chump who would be willing to buy anything. ("And if you believe that, I've got a bridge I could sell you...") Now, though, the 5,989-foot-long Brooklyn span is "for sale" to the highest bidder, according to *The New York Daily News*. Sponsors will bid for the right to pay for litter and graffiti removal, and disinfecting the stairwells. The bids open at $25,000. The bridge "sale" is akin to the American Adopt-a-Highway program, where sponsors foot the bill to keep roads clean. Robin Williams adopted sections of the Grand Central parkway in Queens. Bette Midler is responsible for two miles of the Long Island Expressway.

The bidding to adopt the bridge, which will take place on a home-shopping TV channel. Other items on the block: Comedian-rabbi Jackie Mason will officiate at your wedding. Opening bid: $60,000. *Marilyn Henry*

Queen's speech under new TV management

By PAUL MAJENDIE

LONDON (Reuters) – King George V broke off from his family Christmas dinner in 1932 to speak on the wireless to his loyal subjects — and the chair promptly collapsed under him.

Sixty-five years later, Queen Elizabeth's televised message will be posted on the Internet and broadcast under new management.

"I speak now from my home and my heart to you all," King George V said, in a talk beamed live to 20 million listeners in the British Empire.

The *Observer* newspaper concluded: "The time is not far distant when it will be possible for the remotest exile not only to hear the voice of the King but to see His Majesty in the act of utterance."

Now the British monarch has taken to the information superhighway in a society which she admits is changing bewilderingly fast.

The Christmas Day broadcast has been a national tradition which brings many roast turkey dinners across the land to a halt for 10 minutes.

Viewing figures had slumped to 11 million but, after the death of Princess Diana in August, polls show the queen could enjoy record viewing figures this year.

The message, recorded last week at Windsor Castle, is believed to contain a moving tribute to the "people's princess" and footage from her funeral.

Security is tight at Independent Television News which has taken over the broadcast from the state-financed British Broadcasting Corporation.

Leaks in 1987 and again five years later to the press from the broadcast were said to have "personally offended" the queen.

Buckingham Palace's decision to switch contracts was also widely viewed in the media as a snub to the BBC, after it recorded a sensational interview with Diana in the middle of her marriage break-up.

Documents suggest JFK was looking for early Vietnam exit

By MIKE FEINSILBER

WASHINGTON (AP) – Seven weeks before president John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, American military leaders were anticipating a withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam by the end of 1965, newly declassified documents suggest.

The documents are likely to add to the historical controversy over whether Kennedy planned to end American military involvement in Vietnam after the 1964 presidential election.

At the time a key October 4, 1963 memo was written, the US had only 16,300 advisers in South Vietnam, a force that would swell to more than 536,000 within five years.

"All planning will be directed towards preparing RVN [Republic of Vietnam] forces for the withdrawal of all US special assistance units and personnel by the end of calendar year 1965," said the memo.

Signed by Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the memo was directed to the uniformed leaders of the four military services.

The memo also ordered the service chiefs to "execute the plan to withdraw 1,000 US military personnel by the end of 1963."

In all, 800 pages of Joint Chiefs papers were made public yesterday by the US government's Assassination Records Review Board. The board was created by Congress to amass for public inspection any records that might shed light on Kennedy's murder.

Some historians believe that Kennedy intended to get out of Vietnam and that his successor, Lyndon Johnson – eager not to be seen as the first American president to lose a war – reversed Kennedy's strategy.

But historian Ronald Spector of George Washington University said the execution of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem on November 1, 1963 may have been more decisive in keeping the US in Vietnam than the change at the top of the US government.

American leaders discovered that Diem had been bottling up reports from the field that showed the war was going badly for the South Vietnamese, said Spector, who teaches a course on the US role in Indochina.

The documents show that less than a month after Kennedy's assassination, Johnson told his commanders to press the South Vietnamese toward "increased activity" against North Vietnam, while considering "the plausibility of denial; possible North Vietnamese retaliation; [and] other international reaction."

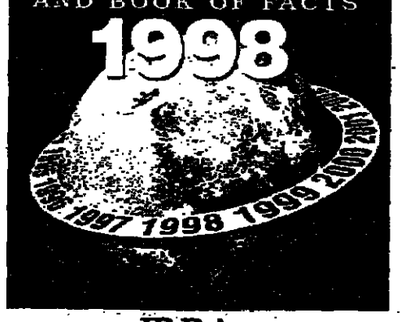
America would remain in Vietnam until August 1973, when US military action in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos ended. By the end of that year, the US had only 50 military people in Vietnam and had suffered 46,163 battle deaths. The war ended April 30, 1975 with North Vietnam's capture of Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital.

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Another peace process

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

It was gratifying to see children line the boulevards of battered Sarajevo yesterday to welcome Bill and Hillary Clinton. At least one peace process appears to be working.

The main purpose of the president's trip is to cheer up his country's troops, who will remain stuck in the Bosnian hell-hole for Christmas. The Bosnians themselves have been quick to seize on the visit as some sort of vote of confidence in their future. No one will begrudge them that interpretation.

The American military in Bosnia have been criticized for risk avoidance – the odd post-Vietnam syndrome spawned by the Gulf War (and underlined in Somalia) which indicates that modern wars must be casualty-free for American troops or the folks back home won't stand for it. (In Bosnia about a dozen troops have died since they arrived in December two years ago – most by accident and none by armed conflict.) The softly-softly approach has provoked the fiercest criticism over the NATO forces' failure to flush out the indicted war criminals who still occupy positions of authority, especially among the Bosnian Serbs. The most dangerous bullies who remain at large are the deadly duo of Radovan Karadzic and his military sidekick Ratko Mladic. (The Rad and the Rat, in British grunt-speak.)

U2, incoming

The British captured one suspect and shot another in a high-profile raid in July. Dutch troops captured two more last week, but the Americans have studiously avoided going after the war criminals.

However, such carping must not disguise the fact that the allied military effort mandated by the Dayton peace accords is a big success story so far. Bosnia has a long way to go, but it is worth remembering how far it has come since 1995.

This year the worst thing that hit Sarajevo was the U2 pop group, and that's a long way from mortars in the market place.

Nor is it altogether true that American troops lack an aggressive attitude toward peace enforcement in Bosnia. It is worth recalling the shocking images of British United Nations soldiers being handcuffed to fences by jeering Serbs when the UN was in charge of peacekeeping. No one would dare chain a soldier under NATO command to anything, because this peacekeeping force has managed to project a clear message of restrained military might and menace, without having to use it.

Operation Joint Endeavor, with its 8,000 US troops heading a 30-nation task force, treads a delicate line between peace enforcement and disinterest in local ethnic conflict. It has handled the balance well, and any impression of pussy-footing is misplaced, without an appreciation of the dangerous tensions that still roam Bosnia.

Hornets stung

The fact that Bosnia has dropped out of our daily front page headlines does not mean it is a problem solved. It means it is a problem contained, and for that the NATO forces deserve full credit. This is a country where NATO field artillery had to be installed by polling booths for its first elections this year. And if the troops have studiously avoided interference in Bosnia's messy and blood-smeared internal affairs, they still have been instrumental in shaping events.

A case in point has been the emergence of Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic out of the shadow of the creepy Karadzic. For long considered even more hardline than her erstwhile boss, she emerged during the summer with clear Western backing from a battle between her power base in Banja Luka and the Serb hornets' nest in Pale.

Thus, in August she could take on the most powerful old communist hacks of the Serbian province, including Karadzic, and ferociously accuse them of betraying those who fought in the war by building "shameful and corrupt smuggling empires." Even Moslems and Croats who have little reason to like Plavsic quietly cheered on her anti-corruption campaign. (She was never part of Yugoslavia's communist establishment.) Any domestic undermining of the Rad and the Rat could only bring closer the day they can be spirited out of Bosnia to answer for their crimes against humanity before international law.

Tenor of events

So, with the Clintons in Bosnia, the fractured country might manage at least two cheers for this Christmas. (Bosnian Moslems traditionally join the seasonal celebrations as a secular event.) Away from the glare of publicity surrounding the Clintons, Luciano Pavarotti and U2 leader Bono also slipped into the town of Mostar on the weekend to open a Pavarotti Music Center, to which he has donated some three million dollars.

The center aims to use music to de-traumatize and re-civilize Bosnian children.

Mostar was a tourist jewel of Yugoslavia before the war, the state's biggest multi-ethnic city. It is now bombed out and deeply divided.

"To the man you have to give the spirit," said Pavarotti in Mostar. "When you give him the spirit, you have done everything." In their separate ways, the troops, the politicians and the artists have managed to give Bosnia some spirit this year.

It's a start. But unfortunately, when the fat man sings, the show will not be over.

US, South Korea look to new era

By JIM MANN



Kim's background indicates he will attempt to break down barriers between the two Koreas. (AP)

WASHINGTON — The election of Kim Dae Jung as South Korea's next president offers the Clinton administration new opportunities to achieve its goal of bringing peace – or at least a reduction in military tensions – on the Korean Peninsula, US officials and independent scholars said Friday.

Kim's background indicates he will attempt to break down barriers between the two Koreas, these experts say. In his years as a foe of military governments in Seoul, he favored new initiatives toward North Korea. And in this year's campaign, he criticized incumbent President Kim Young Sam for flip-flopping in his approach to the North.

"I would expect there will be a North-South summit in the first six months of 1998," said Donald Gregg, who served in Seoul as CIA station chief and US ambassador to South Korea.

Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., who met with Kim in a visit to Seoul last week, asserted: "Kim Dae Jung is not just another South Korean political leader rising to the presidency. He's a potentially historic figure. If there was ever a chance for a major change in North-South relations, it is now upon us."

In recent days, North Korea's isolated Communist regime has sent signals to the United States of a possible willingness to be more open. This week, the regime dispatched its UN ambassador to talk with scholars and policy experts in Washington. It also purchased a full-page color advertisement in *The New York Times* to tout the nation's reclusive leader, Kim Jong Il, as "the lodestar for sailing the 21st century." These efforts may be a mere public-relations offensive aimed at winning more food and aid for North Korea's impoverished economy. But some scholars say there's a chance Pyongyang might be receptive to changing its policy toward South Korea as well.

"Kim Jong Il is trying to project himself as a new leader with a new perspective," said Carter Eckert, director of the Korea institute at Harvard University. "In South Korea, just the change in regime is good. This could be a really historic opportunity if both sides are willing to seize it."

US policy is based on encouraging the two Koreas to continue the four-party talks — with the US and China — that have just opened in Geneva. The goal is to bring about a formal peace settlement of the Korean War, which ended with an armistice 44 years ago.

Many South Korean officials believe North Korea isn't serious about these talks. Instead, they suspect Pyongyang wants to forge a new relationship with the United States, while minimizing the role of South Korea.

Jonathan Pollack, an expert on Asian security issues at the Rand Corp. in Santa Monica, California, says there is "a lot of sensitivity in South Korea about being shut out or shunted aside," as the Clinton administration has dealt more frequently with North Korea.

Now Kim's election changes the dynamics in this diplomacy, opening the possibility of a new initiative from Seoul. The administration must decide how a possible summit between Kim Dae Jung and Kim Jong Il will fit into its efforts at a peace settlement.

Throughout his career, Kim Dae Jung has often been accused by South Korean conservatives of being sympathetic to North Korea or even of being an agent of Pyongyang. But there has never been evidence to substantiate this allegation, and some American scholars believe North Korea will find it harder to negotiate with him than with any other South Korean leader.

"He's not an ex-general, he can't be painted as a tool of the 'chaebol' (corporations), He's a committed Christian; he comes with his own thought," said Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute, a Washington think tank. "He can't be dismissed like other presidents. He will be a tougher opponent for the North to deal with." Kim Dae Jung also has strong ties to the United States. In the early 1980s, he lived in this country for more than three years. And US officials intervened at least twice to save his life when South Korean leaders had targeted him for death.

In one respect, Kim Dae Jung will represent continuity with the policy of his predecessors, US officials believe. Kim has said he supports continuation of the US military presence in South Korea, where 37,000 US troops are now stationed. The president-elect is not without drawbacks, in the view of the experts. Some worry, for instance, about his campaign alliance with Kim Jong Pil, who helped create South Korea's intelligence apparatus.

"Kim Jong Pil has a different attitude toward North Korea – more conservative, more suspicious, less willing to engage," said Eckert.

Moreover, the president-elect doesn't seem to have a core of experienced advisers. "How they divvy up jobs is important," said Pollack. "The issue right now is whether Kim Dae Jung can actually cobble together an effective working team." Still, US experts voice optimism that Kim Dae Jung will be able to help ease tensions with North Korea. Gregg, the former US ambassador who now chairs the Korea Society, a New York-based group that seeks to foster good relations between the US and South Korea, said he hoped that with Kim's support, the two Koreas could work toward such concrete steps as family visits, exchanges of mail and a pullback of forces. (LA Times)

Media change tune after Kim's victory

By SONNI EFRON

SEOUL – After decades of watching television programs that often portrayed him as a dangerous radical or Communist sympathizer, South Koreans awoke Friday to find every station broadcasting slick profiles that glorified President-elect Kim Dae Jung.

What a difference a day made for the much-vilified opposition leader, whose first promise was not to perpetuate the political retaliation from which he has so suffered. Even so, in this rapidly democratizing society that still retains some authoritarian tendencies, many suddenly sought to curry his favor.

With soft-focus close-ups of Kim's beaming face shown to sentimental renditions of his favorite song, and footage of the former dissident as a young democracy fighter and as a kindly grandfather, state-owned and private television networks crossed the line from flattery to hagiography.

"Even though I voted for him, it makes me sick," said Kim Min Ok, 35, an English teacher and fervent fan of Kim. "The reporters' attitude changed overnight after the election." A supporter of former Supreme Court justice Lee Hoi Chang, who lost to Kim by just 1.6 percent of the vote, was even more disgusted by the programs, broadcast in a seemingly endless loop throughout the day.

"I want to emigrate," businessman Lee Tae Geun, 32, said.

Even one of Kim's own aides decried the "glorifying" media coverage.

"I was totally appalled to see it," said Ben Limb, a Korean American who returned from New York to help Kim wage his presidential campaign. "It's not democratic, and that's not what Mr. Kim would want."

Ironically, many citizens and analysts had hailed the South Korean media for its generally impartial coverage of this presidential campaign, seen as the fairest political contest in this nation's history. In final results announced Friday, Kim won 40.3 percent of the vote, Lee took 38.7 percent, and a third-party candidate, Rhee In Je, won 19.2 percent.

Some television watchers said they were shocked to be told after the election certain basic facts about their new president-elect, a 73-year-old man who has spent more than three decades in public life.

"This is the first time I have ever really seen his life story, or all the hardships he went through," said Park Ceyong, 25, a Samsung employee whose father worked on the Lee campaign. "I knew vaguely, but some of the information was new."

Park said she was not aware of the simple fact that Kim had excelled in school, even though he holds a master's degree in economics and a doctorate in political science, was nominated nine times for the Nobel Peace Prize, speaks excellent English and is the author of more than 30 books and publications.

At least one program also reported that Kim's limp was the result of his car having been struck by a truck "in a mysterious assassination attempt" in 1971. Kim has claimed that the crash was the first of three attempts by government agents to kill him. His version was not reported by the Korean media until now, supporters said.

The South Korean media were not the only ones who overnight became enamored of the politician who will officially become president February 25.

From the jail cells where they are serving time on corruption and treason charges, former presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo on Friday found new, cloying words for their onetime foe.

In an article in Saturday's editions of *Chosun Ilbo*, South Korea's largest newspaper, Chun, who received a visit from relatives Friday, "had the impression that Kim must have read a lot and studied hard to prepare himself for running the country." The article did not mention that Chun had helped ensure that Kim had plenty of time to read by having him sentenced to death in 1980, then keeping him in jail or in exile for most of his presidency.

The newspaper said Roh had elevated Kim to the esteemed status of South African President Nelson Mandela, who liberated his country from the oppressive apartheid system. It quoted his former spokesman, who had just visited Roh in jail, as saying that "he believes the president-elect will become the Mandela of Asia."

After a lunch meeting Friday with the president-elect in South Korea's equivalent to the White House, President Kim Young Sam announced he has granted a special amnesty to the two former presidents, subject to Cabinet endorsement. (LA Times)

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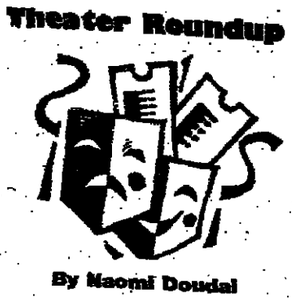
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A 'Can' full of wit

Theater Roundup



By Naomi Doudai

The biggest news in theater here for years, not only for discriminating theater-goers but for all serious theater artists, is the recent proliferation of offbeat performances sponsored by the Tel Aviv Fringe Center.

With its focus on high-minded drama, it represents a salutary offset from the crass commercialization which recently has begun to overtake our theaters. Ironically enough, it is establishment bodies – the Tel Aviv municipality and the diverse government councils for arts and culture – that have come to the rescue. They have done so just in time to offer a generation of dedicated young *artistes* and an appreciative public relief from imminent inanition.

THE CAN OPENER ('HAPOT'HAN')
By Victor Lanoux
Directed by Michael Lourie
ZOA House, Tel Aviv

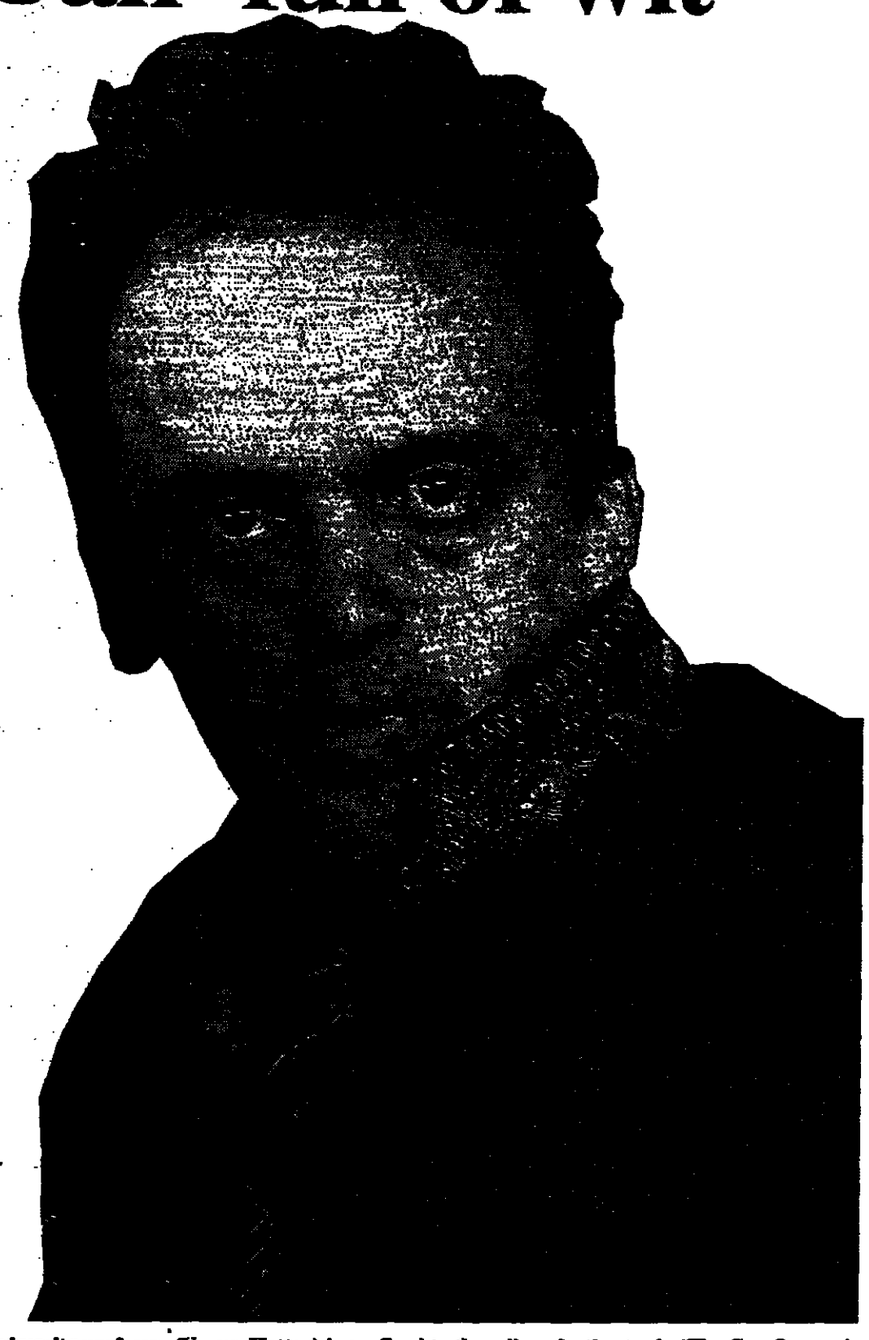
DEATH WISH ('GAGOUA LAMAVET')
By Hashem Yassin
Directed by Ilia Werta
Tzavta 2, Tel Aviv

The Treatment and *Down Among the Dunes*, two striking productions already reviewed here, are followed this week by works not less arresting.

With *The Can Opener*, a sophisticated, cerebral piece of black French comedy performed in a cellar deep down in the dingy bowels of ZOA House, we celebrate off-off-Dizengoff at last.

Played in the perpendicular on a set the size of a shoebox, the piece is directed by an immigrant Russian theater veteran whose extraordinary subtlety and agility in exploiting the bric-a-brac of a theater prop room charges the work with density and dynamism.

Two survivors of an atomic war – an illiterate dockhand of menacing mien, all brawn and biceps (Shmeon Mimran), and a university professor, a pale, pontificating intellectual (Yoram Hattav) – are confined to the cellar of a theater with a pile of canned food for survival. The two give gripping performances locked into a situation that resolves into a physical and metaphysical struggle over stomach vs. spirit.



A university professor (Yoram Hattav) is confined to the cellar of a theater in 'The Can Opener.'

Esoteric and abstruse, it is however enlivened with perpetual movement and plenty of lively wit.

Death Wish is the riveting drama of Hashem Yassin, a Cairo-trained actor who grew up in a refugee camp in Rafiah.

His study of a boy growing up in a Gaza household is probably the first and most intimate view of the daily lives of Palestinian refugees ever revealed to Israeli audiences.

In a deeply impassioned performance, he expresses a range of pain, rage and ultimate rebellion against the darker side of the traditional family framework. The feuds, forbidden encounters, the domestic turmoil fomented by the intrusion of a second wife are all treated with a dramatic intensity that is deeply moving.

In all, this is a self-portrait etched with the utmost sensitivity and sincerity.

Paul Simon looks into the mind of a murderer

In Tune



By David Brinn

Paul Simon must have felt like a man with no more mountains to climb. So he decided to write a musical. While it's an indisputable fact that Simon is one of the greatest songwriters of the rock era, that doesn't necessarily translate into Broadway success.

The Capeman, which opens next month, is Simon's version of *West Side Story*, only this time there's no romance involved, just teen youth gangs in the late 1950s and a young, uneducated immigrant from Puerto Rico named Sal who happens to be a murderer without a conscience.

The trick is whether Simon is able to humanize this inhuman character who is based on a real person. From listening to *Songs From The Capeman*, Simon's first new music in six years, the answer is no.

SONGS FROM THE CAPEMAN
Paul Simon
(Hed Artzi)

LET'S TALK ABOUT LOVE
Celine Dion
(NMC)

SNOWED IN
Hanson
(Helicon)

BIG WILLIE STYLE
Will Smith
(NMC)

Usually his strongest suit, the lyrics are often stilted and awkward, as Simon attempts to provide insight and details into Sal's mind and trace his metamorphosis from killer to college student. Even worse, and at times inadvertently comical, is hearing Simon sing in Sal's voice, a Puerto Rican accent peppered with profanity and street slang not at all becoming of a cultured millionaire.



Paul Simon's new melodies don't seem to flow like they did on past albums.

As he did with African and Brazilian music in *Graceland* and *The Rhythm of the Saints*, Simon plunders more musical subcultures, this time Salsa and '50s street-corner doo-wop. But the melodies just don't flow like they did on past albums.

Given these noble failures, it must be noted that there is still exceptional material and performances due to some fine playing and hot rhythms. Simon sparkles on the innocent '50s bounce of "Bernadette" and salsa great Reuben Blades adds authenticity as the older Sal to the moving "Time is an Ocean." Liner notes readers will discover that Simon's son Harper is featured on guitar on a few tracks.

Simon should be praised for attempting to stretch beyond the narrow confines of the pop song in his quest for art.

But on *Songs From The Capeman*, it sounds too much like fraud. Somebody call Officer Krupke.

LET'S Talk About Love reinforces Celine Dion's position as an internationally recognized pop diva. A fitting tribute to just how far this *petite fille* from Quebec has really come is indicated by her collaborations with the likes of Barbra Streisand, Luciano Pavarotti, Carole King, and The Bee Gees.

The songs span the gamut of styles, from reggae rap to slow-moving ballads, simple love songs and thumpin' disco dance tracks.

Sir George Martin (the producer for those four other guys) even lends a hand in the opening cut, "The Reason," a song written and backed by Carole King. The liner notes mention that the album *Tapestry* was a favorite chez Dion.

She belts out a moving rendition of "Let's Talk About Love," written by Bryan Adams and French superstar Jean-Jacques Goldman and produced by David Foster, yet another fine example of the sing-along blockbuster ballads she's famous for. On the album's highlight, "Us," there's no big-name partner or producer, just Dion singing up a storm.

She even attempts to rehabilitate Leo Sayer's mid-'70s "hit," "When I Need You," but there are limits to Dion's magic. Still, this is a prime example of sophisticated easy-listening pop by one of the masters of the genre.

'TIS THE season to be jolly, and if Christmas is your holiday, then Hanson's *Snowed In* will get those sleighbells ringing. The manchild trio from Tulsa, Oklahoma, which has melted the hearts of girls worldwide, takes to the ice and snow like naturals.

On *Snowed In*, the brothers Hanson offer revamped versions of Christmas rock standards like Motown's "What Christmas Means to Me," Phil Spector's "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" and Brian Wilson's "Little Saint Nick," as well as a couple less successful originals.

Those looking for Jewish content can find Taylor Hanson wearing a Magen David chain on the inside flap.

BIG Willie Style presents G-rated rap by the Fresh Prince of Beverly Hills, Will Smith. It provides further proof of the decline of Western civilization.

Heartrending strains from Theresienstadt

CONCERT ROUNDUP

Death hovered over the TAPAC's side stage, where the chamber music from the Theresienstadt concentration camp was performed. Although it was interesting to learn that there was a place in the camp for the light music as well (like that written by the only composer-survivor František Domazlicky), it was the dances that epitomized the spirit of this heart-rending concert.

CHAMBER MUSIC FROM THERESIENSTADT
The Group for New Music
TAPAC December 18

Dance, by Hans Krasa, and *Two Hassidic Dances*, by Zickmund Schul, were so similar in mood, they seemed to be composed by the same person. Schul's pieces, written for a rather unusual duo – cello and viola which, by its somber tone is nearer to the cello's than the rebellious violin, and hypnotically performed by Michael Kugel and Felix Nemirovsky – sounded like the last conversation of two friends plodding toward the abyss.

Moxim Reider

TO CELEBRATE composer Zvi Avni's 70th birthday, a retrospective concert of his chamber works was presented by the Jerusalem Rubin Academy's faculty members and students. The selection highlighted the composer's formidable versatility of styles and means of expression, from piano solo to percussion, with and without flute; clarinet; and soprano with flute trio.

WORKS BY ZVI AVNI
Jerusalem Rubin Academy
December 17

The *Capriccio* (1956) for piano solo (Allan Sternfield) reflects the energies and rhythms of a *hora*-oriented society and music style, though veering away from stereotypes. A more personal style of considerable subtlety is recognizable in *Silhouettes* (1966) for the unconventional combination of flute and percussion (Moshe Epstein and Oron Schwartz). An emotionally tortured, contrast-torn personality finds intense expression in *Epitaph* (1974-9) for piano solo (Liora Ziv-Li).

A phase of sophistication, contrived yet communicative, is represented by a fascinating combination of electronic sounds and percussion in *Five Variations for Mr. K* (1982). Back to more human dimension, the glory of the female voice is celebrated lyrically in *Love under a Different Sky* (1982) for soprano (Liat Alkan) and flute trio, indulging in imaginary as well as highly imaginative folk styles.

The relaxed playfulness of the most recent *Anthropomorphic Landscape* (1997) for clarinet (Ilya Schwartz) strikes one as a relief after a lifetime of conflicting tensions and exciting explorations in abundantly diversified directions. The vital, creative energies of this composer turned the retrospective into an encouraging anticipation of what he still holds in store for his audiences.

Ury Eppstein

CELLIST Boris Pergamenschikow performed all the possible combinations of three instruments – with pianist Lars Vogt, with violinist Leonidad Kavakos, and with both, as a piano trio, in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's recital series. The sandwiching in of Kodaly's Duo for violin and cello between Brahms's Cello Sonata No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio op. 50 was a stroke of programming genius. Non-fans of 20th-century music were thus offered a gift of an uncommonly enjoyable work.

JSO RECITAL SERIES
Works by Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Kodaly
Jerusalem Theater
December 16

Kodaly's Duo is personal, sincere, and unconventional without being provocative. Echoes of folk-style playing were noticeable but not imitative. The two artists engaged in a real musical dialogue, more than in the preceding Brahms sonata.

Brahms's Cello Sonata was impassioned and genuinely emotional. But the cello's excitement did not prevent it from sounding subdued, lacking in bite and intensity, as well as being overpowered frequently by the too assertive piano.

In Tchaikovsky's Trio, the artists displayed thoroughly effective teamwork, maintaining the musical and emotional tension throughout this lengthy work.

Ury Eppstein

SINFONIETTA BEERSHEBA
Mozart and Beethoven
Beersheba Conservatory
December 15

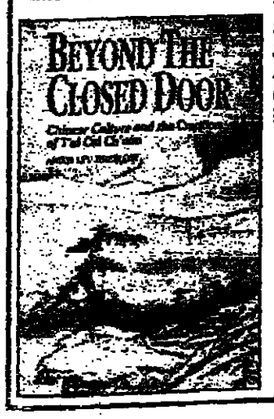
THIS week's series at the Sinfonietta held to the original program of old stand-bys but replaced both scheduled conductor and soloist, who had canceled their appearances. Soprano Larisa Tatuyev gave the impression that she was a last-minute substitute. The Mozart opera arias were read from the score.

Dynamic and interpretive range were limited. Horia Andreescu, conductor of the Romanian Radio Orchestra, Bucharest, gave a conventional reading of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. The sounds he drew were hard and dry. Textures were thin, at times strident.

Max Stern

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World class spectacle

The somewhat inflated title of the World Likud organization recalls that of the World Wrestling Federation, a staged competition between elaborately muscled and costumed gladiators whose choreographed grandstanding is designed to entertain rather than bestow a meaningful title to the winner.

Since the World Likud is an unknown organization, with no real constituency, influence, or function, perhaps the fighting on the convention floor was meant simply as entertainment, a parody of a power struggle.

Most of the delegates, no doubt thinking they were part of an obscure organization of like-thinkers – *a sort of international political club* – must have been horrified to find themselves at the center of a national spectacle. In fact, the *fracas* was like a wrestling match that spilled over the ropes of the ring into a flabbergasted audience.

In this case, the struggle had little to do with the actual honor, great as it may be, of leading World Likud. The diplomat who was in the end chosen, former ambassador Zalman Shoval, admitted to a lack of any involvement in or knowledge of the organization he was chosen to head. Rather, the battle was a continuation of the fight that began at the Likud Central Committee over the cancellation of the party's primaries.

At the Likud convention there was real power at stake, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu needlessly let himself get caught between his ministers on the one hand and the party apparatus on the other. In the end, the ministers prevailed on Netanyahu to call for a referendum among party members, which is expected to reverse the central committee's decision to cancel the primaries. Avigdor Lieberman's resignation as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office quickly followed this announcement, and was presumed to be related to it.

With Lieberman finally out, Likud ministers who clashed most bitterly with him over the primaries are determined to keep him far away from the reins of power. One might have thought that the leadership of World Likud could not be much further from center stage, but even that was too much for Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who saw an opportunity to hand Lieberman a defeat.

Netanyahu's big mistake in all this was to again get involved in a party feud. True, it must have seemed natural for him to endorse Lieberman over the incumbent, Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo. With Milo poised to leave the Likud and form a new party, it would almost seem to be an act of disloyalty for Netanyahu not to support Lieberman, his closest ally during his rise to power. The danger in such a move, however, was exactly what happened: Lieberman's bid for an inconsequential post became a target for still-seething ministers to squash what was left of a Netanyahu-Lieberman alliance.

Though it seems to have been Lieberman's French allies who provided the cameras with the juiciest footage of blocking access to ballot boxes with their bodies and manhandling photographers, Livnat has not exactly approached the matter with kid gloves either. She announced her candidacy at the last minute, after Netanyahu had endorsed Lieberman for the post, thereby ensuring embarrassment for the prime minister.

The lesson from all this for Netanyahu should be to keep a healthy distance from party politics, while paying enough attention to the party to minimize its sense of abandonment. Netanyahu is not the first party leader to have troubles with his own party – such troubles are the rule rather than the exception in party politics in democratic countries. Parties and their leaders seem inherently in conflict over who should serve whom, the party or the leader. Until both sides realize the answer is both, or one side becomes completely subservient, the result is conflict.

Now that relations between Netanyahu, his feistier ministers, and the party have become so strained, the talk of "camps" is creeping back into descriptions of Likud politics. At this point, it is unclear how meaningful it is to talk of camps of the Rabin versus Peres variety that characterized the Labor Party for so long. The opposition to Netanyahu within the Likud has not yet coalesced into a single camp. The way to prevent it from coalescing, however, is not to engage in a running battle with the Likud "princes," such as Livnat and Milo, for party posts. Such tactics invite opposition by bringing the prime minister into the muck of party politics, when he is supposed to be above the fray. While Netanyahu is not known for his healing skills, he should start trying to mediate conflicts, rather than constantly fanning them by taking sides.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LESS DESIRABLE

Sir, - The story of a group of secular families in a newly developed neighborhood of Pardes Hanna, "From suburban dream to battleground", who unexpectedly found themselves living as neighbors to a group of religious families stands in stark contrast to that of three Arab women, "Unwanted Neighbors," whose West Jerusalem rented apartment was once again firebombed on December 5.

Why did the Association for Civil Rights in Israel become involved and take a stand in the case of the three Arab women and not in the Pardes Hanna case? Are religious Jews as neighbors less desirable than Arab neighbors? Do they have less of a right to live wherever they desire? It is inconceivable that one person or group should be allowed to live wherever they want while another person or group is denied that right.

We may not agree with how others live their lives and we may not even like their lives and we may not even like them as neighbors, but that is the price of living in a democracy. If someone doesn't like his neighbors, in a democracy he always has the freedom to move.

DANIEL GOTTLIEB

Ra'anana.

MONEY WASTED

Sir, – At the same time as we saw on television the plight of people suffering from terrible diseases and not being able to get the lifesaving medicine because there is just not enough money, MK's were running around to finish their annual budget to furnish their home offices – mainly with electric goods, such as refrigerators, stereos, videos and TVs.

And then I remember Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon's renovation of his Knesset bathroom, with the help of his wife, the renovation of the prime minister's official residence, the upgrading of the prime minister's travel budget by millions of shekels, and the upkeep of the prime minister's wife's two offices with all that that entails.

At this point I started to understand where our tax money goes.

One can, of course, always put the blame on previous governments but this one promised to do things better: till now it has only done worse.

So far, we are saddled with a bumbling and incompetent government and a henpecked premier.

HETTY MAHLER

Haifa.

PRESSING NEEDS

Sir, - The present crisis about finding the money to pay for life-saving medicines is a vital test of our humanitarian and social values. An immediate temporary solution can be found in a tax which cannot under any circumstances be considered a burden on the underprivileged and which will probably be readily agreed to by the great majority of those who will pay the tax.

I suggest a small surcharge to be levied on every cellular telephone call. The income from this surcharge should be placed in a special fund which can be applied by the treasury to the most pressing needs of the moment, in this case to subsidising the life saving drugs presently under discussion.

The moneys can be made available to the health funds on a temporary basis, conditional on their undertaking to effect acceptable measures to improve efficiency and reduce expenses.

The treasury should be enabled to apply the monies in this fund to other emergency needs from time to time.

MAURICE OSTROFF

Ra'anana.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 23, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported at length on the second graduation ceremony of the Hebrew University held before a notable gathering of scholars, prominent residents and visitors.

The London *Times* praised *The Palestine Post* under the new management and the editorship of Gershon Agronsky (Agron) as a "non-contentious symbol" and the newspaper's full support for law and order.

50 years ago: On December 23, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that there was a stalemate at the UN where it was still doubtful whether the planned Commission for the Implementation of Partition in Palestine would be able to hold its first session on January 7, 1948.

A schooner, *Lo Tafhidenu* ("The Unafraid") with 800 "illegal" immigrants to Palestine was seized by the Royal Navy off the Palestine coast.

There was continued shooting and sniping in Haifa. The Galilee settlements north of the Hula had been completely cut off from the rest of the country by a curfew. In Jerusalem Hamekasher buses got through to the Old City without casualties. Bullets embedded in their armor plating were kept as souvenirs by some passengers. Arabs desecrated Jewish graves on the Mount of Olives.

Alexander Zviell



Machines and unemployment

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

The other day I was frantically trying to get some information regarding the pre-flight arrangements offered by one of the foreign airlines. For almost every call, a recorded message answered giving me all sorts of irrelevant (from my point of view) information and instructions. If a live human voice answered (after many long minutes of annoying recorded messages) the person on the other side told me to call yet another number, which on one occasion proved to be "temporarily disconnected" according to a Bezeq recording.

My experience was perhaps rather extreme, but it is certainly symptomatic of a phenomenon, which in a time of rising unemployment cannot but be looked upon with concern. How many secretaries and telephone operators have been fired in recent years to be replaced by irritating answering machines, that keep us on the phone for many long minutes, with the meter ticking at our expense, and frequently fail to give us the information we seek? Supposedly this is part of the price we must pay for the combination of laisser faire economics and modern technology - both of them heartless and soulless. But how much does it cost the state in unemployment relief?

However, the major flood of unemployment in the country today has different origins. One after the other, Israel's major textile companies are closing down their operations in the country - some of which are being moved to the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt. The truth of the matter is that in the absence of the Palestinian/Jordanian/Egyptian option, not only would the plants close down, but the companies would fold up as well.

It has been known for over a decade that the textile industry in Israel is doomed. But for many years the subject was taboo, for political reasons. Instead of trying to work out alternative sources of employment for those employed in the textile industry in Israel, all sorts of devices were used to put off the day of reckoning. But now the day of reckoning is here, and there are no answers.

It is very fine to speak of Israel's economic future lying in high-tech industries, as indeed it does. But what about the masses of simple workers, such as most of those now being laid off in the textile industries, who have neither the level of education nor frequently the intelligence required for jobs in such industries? According to the Social Darwinists these people should simply be left to rot. But in the short run even the social democrats and "social liberals" can offer little more than unemployment relief, while society must allocate growing sums of money to dealing with the social problems, which accompany unemployment.

The answer to unemployment is a combination of capitalism and soul

And there is a third, growing group of unemployed in Israel today. These are well educated experienced employees who are being laid off by some of the more sophisticated industries and businesses, due to the combined effect of the global economic crisis (over which the Israeli government has no control) and the almost total stalemate in the Middle East peace making process (for which the Israeli government bears a good deal of the responsibility).

The combined effect of unemployment caused by new technologies, structural changes, the effects of globalization and chauvinism has resulted in the number of those seeking jobs rising to over 150,000, and unemployment in certain towns approaching 15%. The fact that the current government is more committed than any of its predecessors to the free market credo - to privatization at almost any price and to high interest rates - and excels at extinguishing fires rather than preventing their outbreak doesn't offer much hope.

Of course, the answer is not a return to the socialism of yesteryear. The answer is a combination of capitalism with a soul and social minded government direction - what the French socialists refer to as dirigism. The Likud can mock the economic record of the previous Labor government as much as it likes, and there is no doubt that Labor's economic team in the years 1992-96 made some mistakes.

However, both former minister of finance Avraham Shohat and former minister of industry and trade Micha Harish combined sympathy for privatization and the encouragement of big and small business alike with a social commitment, especially when it came to the development towns. At the same time, the government pushed the peace process and its economic corollaries forward. There was a direction, and a purpose, not just empty bombastic words, and despite what the Likud keeps repeating parrot like, almost all the economic indicators were more positive than they are today.

The writer is a political scientist.

The 'yihyeh b'seder' map

AARON LERNER

We have already learned the hard and painful way that 'yihyeh b'seder' [it will be OK] means that very much is not OK." **Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Staff and Command School, August 1992**

The IDF security map, with its one to three kilometer security zone on the Green Line, is a *"yihyeh b'seder* map" par excellence.

What kind of assumptions about the potential threats Israel faces makes this zone workable? I don't know and I am in good company. According to reliable informed sources, the government ministers who saw the map also don't know and they didn't ask. My source did tell me, however, that the IDF sees the map as Israel's answer to the threat of invasion.

My suspicion is that the IDF map drawers took a very convenient assumption, namely that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian "army" has only the weapons allowed it under the Interim Agreement. And since assault rifles and pistols don't have much range they figured that a thin band would suffice. If, on the other hand, the PA has Katyusha and artillery, the zones would be ineffective.

A pre-Oslo analyst who assumed Palestinian compliance might be faulted for his naivete, but a post-Oslo planner who relies on such a mammoth leap of faith should be out seeking a different vocation.

Is it micro-managing for the politicians to take an active interest in the assumptions made by the IDF? Far from it. For the assumptions are themselves political in nature.

This is not the first time that maps were drawn based on the assumption of Palestinian compliance. All kinds of lines were inked onto the map of Hebron during the prolonged negotiations.

And for all we know they might have made a difference if they were honored. But these past few days many of the lines have again lost all meaning. The Palestinians have opted not to comply.

Before the Hebron redeployment, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that if the Arabs started shooting in the city, he would bring in tanks. The Palestinians are shooting, but until now there are no tanks in Hebron.

Security is less important than the urgency to close the deal with Arafat

One can only wonder how the lines would have been in Hebron if the politicians had insisted on a realistic assumption regarding both Palestinian compliance and Israel's own self-imposed response limits.

The IDF's assumptions about Palestinian compliance also drive their estimates of the costs of retaking positions in Palestinian-controlled Area A. When exercises were recently held to ascertain what was involved, the working assumption evidently was that the PA doesn't have anti-aircraft missiles.

And what if one of Arafat's privileged uninspected vehicles carried them into the autonomy? *Yihyeh b'seder*?

These operational estimates are critical for many reasons, but perhaps the most important one is the correlation between the time it would take to complete such an operation and the danger of such an action leading to war with neighboring states.

If the IDF can rout the PA in 24 hours, Egypt would not be happy, but it, along with the UN, would face a fait accompli. In sharp contrast, our neighbors would be hard pressed to stand still if Arafat's army held on for a few days. Yes, Egypt sat by when the IDF entered Lebanon to wipe out terrorists. But Lebanon is not Palestine and the reaction of the Arab masses to a Jewish threat on Beirut is not the same as the frenzy which might be expected from what would no doubt be portrayed as an assault on al-Aksa itself.

Why does Defense Minister Mordechai support such a risky map? Perhaps Foreign Minister David Levy explained it best when he argued last week that while Ariel Sharon's map may be more realistic, it was meaningless since the Palestinians would reject it.

Plainly put, Levy feels that security is less important than the urgency to close the deal with Arafat.

There is a symbiotic relationship between the *yihyeh b'seder* politicians and IDF officials. The former don't ask too many embarassing questions while the latter provide a fig leaf for reckless concessions.

Far from promoting a durable peace, by temptingly tilting the balance in the favor of Israel's enemies, this *yihyeh b'seder* approach increases the odds and costs of future war.

It's one thing to take a "calculated risk for peace." It's quite another to take an uncalculated leap into the uncertain.

The writer directs IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

Death row – politics

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Gov. George W. Bush of Texas has a helluva problem. The Supreme Court said no to the lady's final appeal against the death sentence.

The lady in question is youngish (38) and beautiful. She is a born-again Christian. In the course of her conversations with a prison chaplain, all of them conducted with bulletproof glass separating minister and postulant, a courtship developed, and lo! they have been married, though they have never shaken hands.

The detective who arrested her has asked for clemency. So also the prosecutors who got her sentenced. So also a pro-death-penalty former US attorney. So also the sister of one of the murder victims. Pat Robertson, the pope of the Christian Coalition, has publicly requested clemency, while reiterating his support for capital punishment.

The mechanics of commutation are complicated in a way that helps Bush. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has to acquiesce in a gubernatorial pardon. Ah yes, but the members of the board are named by the governor. Which means that although Bush has a little camouflage working for him, in fact he is seen as the man who will decide whether Karla Faye Tucker dies at midnight on January 30.

The case has mostly to do, of course, with women. Should they be put to death?

There are other factors, contingently relevant. Tucker began using marijuana at age 8, went to heroin at 10, was a groupie at 13, married at 17, and turned to prostitution to support her drug habit. Question: Did the drugs transfigure her true nature, adding up to a reason for clemency?

Tucker took part in a crime of extraordinary brutality. There were two victims of her and her male collaborator (a man, since dead of natural causes). A recitation of the details of the crime she committed makes the reader bloodthirsty for revenge.

But the case hangs on her sex. The last time Texas executed a woman was during the Civil War. The last time anybody executed a woman was 1984, in North Carolina, by lethal injection.

Do the figures reflect the incidence of murders committed by women?

Murders committed by women are dramatically fewer. Still, there are seven women on Texas' death row right now. That's just under 2 percent of the total (400) there, but it means that if Bush is going to be influenced critically by the sex of Karla Tucker, he is going to walk into the identical bind at least seven times, assuming he is re-elected next year.

Now here are a couple of considerations that are politically fretful. The politically correct position is that men and women are equal in respect of everything that bears on civil, or indeed military, life. What this appears to tell us is that no latitudinarian consideration of any kind is to be given to Tucker's being a woman.

Agreed?

Well, not exactly. There is no way to get rid of the strain on psychological predispositions that twangs when anomalous situations confront us. The mother in South Carolina who sent her two sons to drown a couple of years ago committed a crime infinitely more horrifying, in public sensibility, than if the murderer had been a man. The prospect of a woman soldier killed by an enemy bayonet while waging front-line combat is more dismaying than the identical thing happening to a man – don't try to reason with this; simply accept that it is so.

And then we touch upon an unmentionable: Karla Tucker is a born-again Christian. If her sentence were commuted, what would the American Civil Liberties Union say? Nothing. But what would the ACLUers be *thinking*? *Right:* a violation of the First Amendment. True separation of church and state means that no governor should incline toward clemency for anyone merely because that person has embraced religion. Amen.

We normal people are entitled to believe that this is hogwash, preferring to believe that clemency by a secular institution is understandable, and that someone who has convincingly embraced Christianity can be presumed to have gone at least part way in atoning for sins committed.

But of course there'd be a popular reaction against what might be thought of as a penitentiary scam. When Charles Colson embraced Christianity while in prison, there were hoots of ridicule. Hardly credible now, after a generation's exemplary life as head of The Prison Fellowship.

So, if you were George W.'s political adviser, what would you counsel? The same thing George W.'s religious counselor would urge on him?

Universal Press Syndicate

هكذا من الأصل

A face-lift for the millennium

Despite severe budget constraints, Nazareth is trying to give itself a makeover for the year 2000 by restoring historic buildings and facades. Officials hope a joint project with an Italian restoration school will be followed by others, Judith Sudilovsky writes.

On a recent warm autumn afternoon in Nazareth, strains of Italian pop music could be heard coming through the windows of the Mensa Christi Church – a church that had stood silent for 20 years.

"It's not so appropriate for a church, but we like it," says Italian restoration student Loredana Dolce, 27, grinning sheepishly from the top level of scaffolding, her head just two meters from the domed roof of the church.

Dolce and 11 other Italian students have spent four months restoring the 136-year-old church as their final course project for the Venice School of Restoration. Their presence in Nazareth is part of a collaborative effort in the preparations for the year 2000.

The director of the Nazareth Department of Antiquities and Restoration, Sharif Sharif, is thrilled. "The neighbors never thought anything about this church, now they see people have come from abroad to work on it and so they themselves are beginning to take an interest," says Sharif. "The municipality sees people from abroad coming here, and they're beginning to see there's a possibility of restoring historical buildings even if there isn't money in the budget for it."

As the City of Nazareth prepares to celebrate 2000 it is also attempting to give itself a face-lift through the restoration of various old buildings and building facades, although the budget for such cosmetic improvements is sorely lacking.

Mensa Christi, which is owned by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, fell into disrepair after the last caretaker left 20 years ago.

The church, whose name means "Table of Christ," was originally built in 1860, constructed in the baroque style by Italian craftsman on the site where, according to legend, Jesus had eaten with his disciples after his resurrection using a hard block of chalk as his table.

An earlier chapel stood on the same spot from 1781 until it was destroyed in 1859, although the location was reported as a popular pilgrim site as early as 1628 where some claimed to have seen the imprint of the body of Jesus on the rock.

Sharif believes the meal mostly likely took place in Tabgha, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee where there is also a Franciscan church called Mensa Christi. But over the years the legend's location became linked to Nazareth as well.

The Venice School of Restoration normally requires its students to do field work for their final project. The school's top 12 final-year students are working on the project, which they plan to complete this month.

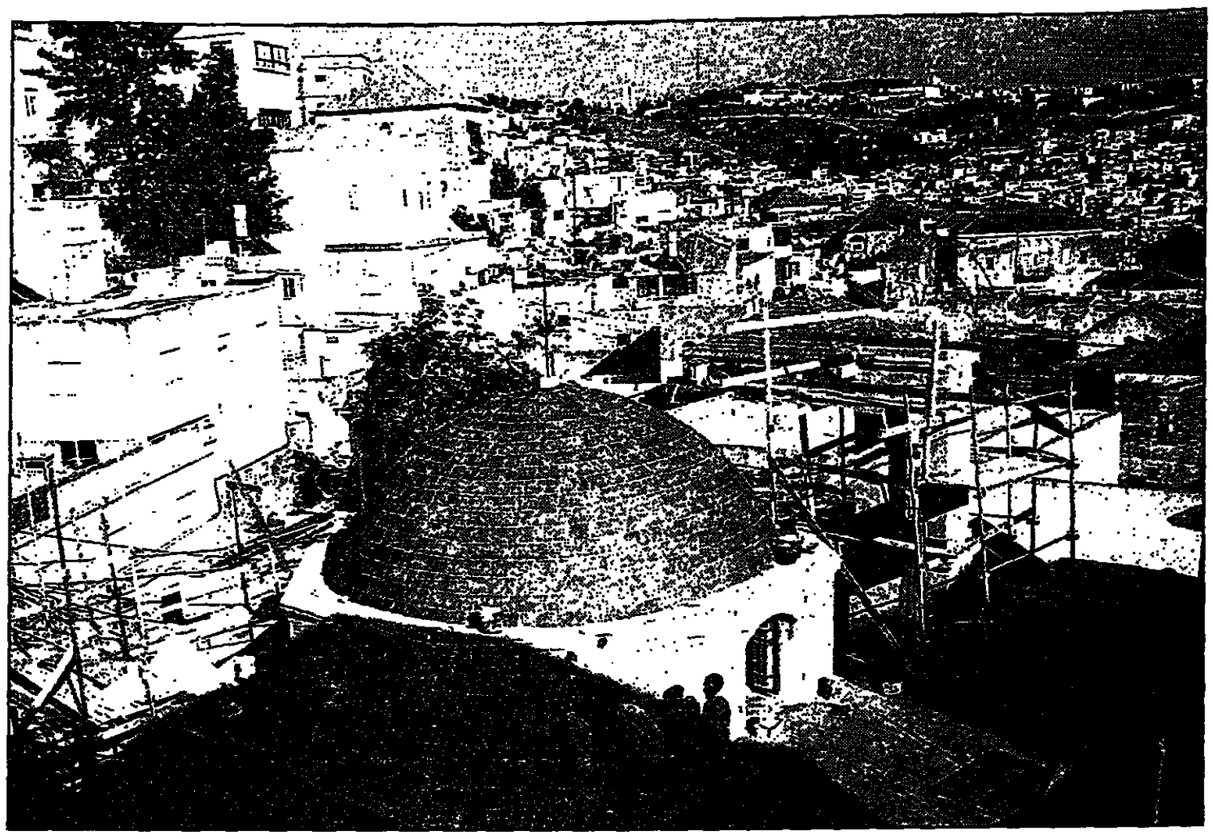
Mensa Christi was chosen for the project for several logistic reasons: it was small enough for work to be completed within a short time, and it is located along the new pedestrian walkway starting from the new promenade near the Salesian Convent on a hilltop in the northern end of Nazareth, leading down to the old marketplace which Nazareth hopes will be completely renovated by 2000.

In addition, the restoration of the church would involve stucco work, wall painting and restoration of terra-cotta and limestone – all specialities of the school; the restoration work would not disturb anyone; and finally, it would provide the school with a partner willing to help contribute financially to the project.

The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land agreed to pay for the students' room and board, while the School of Restoration of Venice paid for their tickets and all scientific material not available in Israel.

The Municipality of Nazareth foots the bill for local travel expenses, materials purchased locally, clearing the land around the church and management of the entire project. The total cost: $500,000.

Even before the hands-on part of the project could begin, a great deal of work had to be carried out in the laboratories in Venice: there were pigmentation studies of the original paint to find colors as similar to the original as possible, and there was a scientific analysis of the mortar and stones, the structural conditions and the construction techniques.



Nazareth's 136-year-old Mensa Christi Church was chosen for restoration, in part, because of its location along a new pedestrian walkway. (Debbie Hill)

Among the problems the students had to deal with was rising damp which left salt residue on the walls, which in turn dislodged the plaster.

In the course of the restoration the students discovered that repairs had been carried out in the church twice before, but with no attempt to retain the original quality of the Italian craftsmanship of the church.

Following an earthquake 20 years ago, cement had been used to repair cracks in the wall, damaging the plaster. The original wall paintings had been painted over twice with no attempt to retain the original art work.

While removing the newer paint from one wall, the students discovered a painting of a window, giving a sense of symmetry to the chapel because of the real window on the opposite wall.

An 1876 painting of Jesus dining with his disciples, which has also been restored, will be returned to its place in a niche behind the revered chalk rock.

"This is part of the historical center of Nazareth. It represents the European architecture in the second half of the 19th century," says Sharif. "One of the reflections of the European penetration here was the architecture and the monuments. This is part of our architectural heritage, it is an element we have to conserve."

The church is situated over a water source. There used to be a fountain outside the walls of the church which provided water for residents, which the municipality would like to restore. The city is also trying to convince the Franciscans to lower or remove the high wall surrounding the church which prevents passersby from seeing the building.

Because the church is private property, there is no guarantee that after the work has been completed the Franciscans will agree to open it up to the public, although, said Sharif, they have been positive about the possibility.

Nazareth would like to see similar cooperative restoration projects with groups from abroad for other buildings, among them the Saraya building, the Ottoman government palace which the city wants turned into a museum.

"One of the reflections of the European penetration in the area is the architecture and monuments. This is part of our architectual hertitage, an element we have to conserve."

—Sharif Sharif, Department of Antiquities

Restoration of these historical buildings would provide other attractions for the tourist coming to Nazareth, says Sharif, and they would not necessarily have to escape from the city so quickly once they completed the mandatory visits to the two main churches.

For Sharif the restoration plans are more than just a project to bring in tourists.

He studied for 15 years with international groups in Italy but was unable to carry out such restoration projects at home, Sharif comments. "Suddenly, you find yourself working on such a project in your city. I call this happiness, when you succeed in something you wanted to do for a long time."

Bethlehem boom town, Page 14



In working on the Mensa Christi Church, students of the Venice School of Restoration try to retain the original quality of the Italian craftsmanship. (Debbie Hill)

A new account of an old star

By LAURA KING

"There came wise men from the East. ... The star, which they saw in the east, went before them till it came and stopped over where the young child was." – Matthew 2:9

The brilliant beacon that plays a starring role in the biblical Christmas story could have been a real astronomical event as well as a poetic symbol, scholars say.

The book of Matthew describes a brightly shining star that guided wise men bearing gifts on a long journey that ended in Bethlehem, the traditional birthplace of Jesus. Biblical scholars and astronomers say there are a variety of possible scientific explanations for such a sustained and glowing light in the heavens, including a comet, a nova, or the close alignment of certain planets as viewed from Earth.

"Some would be inclined to see it as the providential timing of natural phenomena – and this would apply to many of the miracles described in the Bible," said Jim Fleming, head of the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies, a research institute and pilgrimage center.

Bethlehem, today a town of 50,000, bears scant resemblance to the hilltop stone village it was in biblical times, or to its tranquil depiction on Christmas cards today. The central area of Manger Square, which abuts the 4th century Church of the Nativity, is clogged with tour buses and pocked by construction sites.

But once away from Bethlehem's blaring center, a quality of timelessness prevails: stony hills, olive groves, herds of wandering sheep — and the cold, star-sprinkled night sky.

Efforts to match up the biblical account of the star of Bethlehem with astronomical events documented elsewhere are complicated by questions about the precise date of Jesus' birth.

The gospels of Luke and Matthew both put the birth sometime during the reign of King Herod, between 37 and 4 BCE, Fleming said. With that as a time frame, several possibilities emerge, according to astronomers.

Halley's comet, which returns every 75 or 76 years, would have been visible in the night skies around 10 BC, with a trailing tail that could have appeared to point in the direction of Bethlehem.

The comet theory is bolstered by a reference in Matthew to the wise men seeing the star twice, Fleming says. Halley's comet is visible for several weeks, then passes behind the sun and reappears.

Professor Moshe Guelman, director of the Space Research Institute at the Technion, said of all the possible astronomical events, a comet would be likeliest to cause a long-lasting, highly visible glow.

Given less credence is the possibility of a nova, or a new star, which would appear initially brilliant and then fade within a few months. One was documented by Chinese astronomers around 5 BCE.

Other astronomical occurrences during the reign of King Herod merit attention, scholars say. Astronomers found that in 7 BCE, Jupiter and Saturn would have appeared very close together, casting a bright combined glow similar to that of a single large star. The following year, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were also closely aligned.

A similar alignment of Jupiter and Saturn occurred in October of 1991, affording modern-day stargazers with a biblical bent the chance to imagine how the journey could have unfolded.

Fleming, originally of Portland, Oregon, said he used the occasion to retrace the path of the wise men, who stopped in Jerusalem before going on to Bethlehem. Because of the way the modern-day road rises, then takes a turn just outside town, the light actually appeared to stop moving over Bethlehem, he said.

For most believers, scientific theories about the star may be interesting, but don't really affect the Christmas story's significance.

"From a symbolic point of view, the story of the wise men and the star is a link to a long chain of prophecies in the Old Testament," said Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, a Roman Catholic biblical scholar in Jerusalem.

"Every aspect of it is evocative." Besides, he said, "we can all identify with a message of hope, and the successful end to a difficult journey." (AP)

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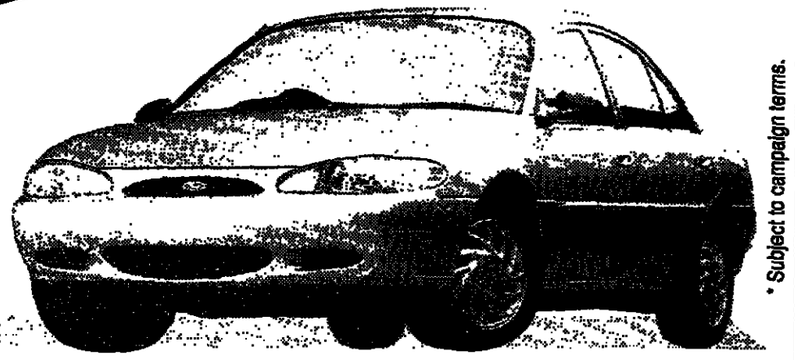
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What a drag

Homefront



Allison K. Sommer

When it was announced last month that pop diva Dana International was going to represent Israel in the Eurovision Song Contest, everyone was aflutter. If you've never heard of Dana or perhaps have seen her and naively believe that she is just another local songstress, she is in fact, a former bar-mitzva boy named Yaron Cohen, who underwent a sex-change operation many years ago. Since then, the controversy surrounding the choice of Dana has temporarily died down. But one can bet that the debate will flare up again as the international event nears.

We've already had indications that she is going to draw as much attention abroad as she does at home. The BBC has found her a suitable subject for profile, and that is just the first of many foreign news outlets likely to be interested in how such a creature could emerge from the Holy Land.

Clearly unhappy by the choice – though they would never watch Eurovision anyway – are haredi leaders who call the choice shameful. Actually, she is one of the few female singers these men can listen to. When she first surged in popularity in Israel, a rabbi ruled that Orthodox men, who are not normally permitted to hear a woman's singing voice, can listen to Dana.

Dana's success highlights how drag queens and transsexuals have become such an indispensable part of today's culture. The trend was given international screen play in the hit film *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, released three years ago, which depicted three drag queens with hearts of gold making their way across the Australian outback. A Hollywood copycat movie soon followed. The ripple effect locally created a demand for blue-and-white drag queens, and the fringe clubs in Tel Aviv that feature Israeli men lip-synching the hits of standard drag-queen favorites like Barbra Streisand and Bette Midler – and adding a local flavor by doing Rita, Ofra Haza and Yaffa Yarkoni as well. Then came the success of Dana who, despite the fact that she has "crossed over" to womanhood in terms of her biology, still maintains the over-the-top sensibility of a drag performer.

One troupe of men-dressed-as-women, the B'not Pessia quartet, have become the rage. The group combines drag and political satire weekly on Channel 1's *Closing the Week* (yes, our tax dollars are going to pay for their lipstick). In their performances, we have seen takes on State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat, Communications Minister Limor Limor Livnat and – how could they resist? — Sara Netanyahu.

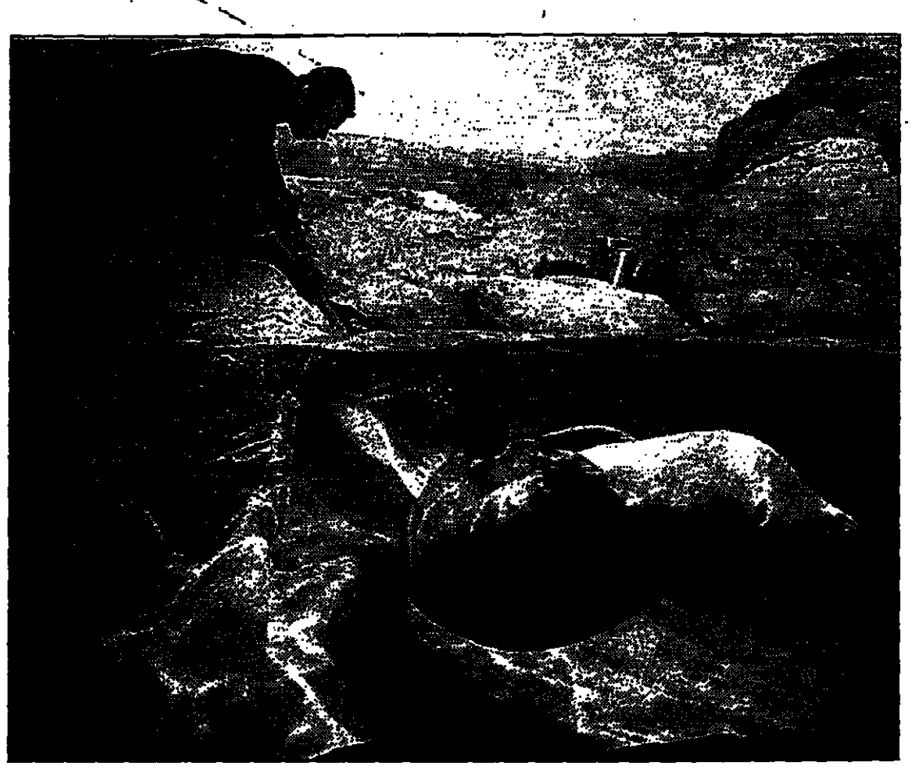
I must confess, I just don't understand drag queens. I have no opposition to men wanting to be women. I could see, even with all its discomfort, envying the ability to give birth, being permitted to be vulnerable and nurturing, to cry in public and all those other feminine privileges. But none of that is what seems to appeal to drag queens. The stuff they revel in – the costuming aspect of womanhood — is exactly the kind of thing that annoys me and many of the women I know.

I must confess, I just don't understand drag queens

Does any woman living a full, busy life really have time to put on heavy make-up, figure-shaping underwear, high heels, stockings, and a body-hugging spandex top and miniskirt? True, a small minority of women – many of whom can be found in New Jersey, Los Angeles, Bat Yam and southern reaches of Tel Aviv – do dress this way on a daily basis. But most don't. The tabloid press is full of unflattering snapshots of the world's great beauty queens caught looking drab-looking in the supermarket or the drugstore. They are willing to take the risk of these photos being taken – anything to avoid having to put on their mascara.

The only reason I can see for the drag queens enjoying all this irritating, uncomfortable ultra-girliness business so much is that they do it on special occasions: when they are on stage. When they are not performing, I'll bet they prefer to just throw on jeans and a T-shirt and head outside. If they felt an obligation to gussy themselves up into a full-scale queen every day, I doubt it would be such a thrill.

Instead, getting dressed would be what it is for actual women – a *real* drag.



Sea World? No, it's just one of the attractions at America's largest shopping mall: a simulated Pacific shore with live seals. (AP)

It's a mall world, after all

By SUE MANNING

A trip to this mighty mall can strip you of your dollars and sense.

You can touch a sea cucumber, listen to the stars, smell like Elizabeth Taylor, watch a movie in 54 places, or eat as fast or as fancy as you please.

Described as "regional," "discount," "interactive," "mega" and "super," the year-old Ontario Mills Mall in Ontario, California is seeking to redefine the meaning of the American shopping mall.

During the first 10 months of 1997, the mall drew 14 million visitors. Disneyland drew a record 14.2 million people in 12 months in 1995, according to *Amusement Business Magazine*. About 7,300 people work at the mall.

Some say the best and the wildest is yet to come, since this will be the mall's first real Christmas (only a few stores were open for the US's busiest shopping time last year).

This year, there are no vacancies. And four million people are expected to visit the mall's 237 retailers by January 1. Ontario Mills was the largest retail complex completed in the US in 1996, with 182,000 sq. meters of buildable area on 165 acres, some 65 kms east of Los Angeles.

The Mills Corp. in Arlington, Virginia, operates six other mighty malls, as well as 11 community shopping centers, across the US.

Other super malls are planned in California, Texas, New Jersey, North Carolina and Tennessee.

"People were getting bored with malls," said Ontario Mills General Manager Jim Mance. "We were not overmalled. I think we were overcopied. You can't keep copying, cookie-cutting or rubber-stamping malls. You have to come up with something different."

The average visitor to the Mills mall spends more than three hours — because it is different, he said. Shoppers rave about prices at the mall, a combination of discount outlet stores, off-price retailers and specialty stores.

"I saved a small fortune," said San Diego shopper Debra Rawls. She paid $169 for 10 shirts and two pairs of pants.

"I saved over $100," she said.

There are manufacturer's outlets, specialty store outlets like Group USA, department stores like J.C. Penney, super savings stores and off-price retailers like Marshalls.

For bargain-bingeing upper crusters, there is a Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet and Off Rodeo Drive Beverly Hills, with the likes of Bernini, Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Gianni Versace, Hugo Boss, Moschino, Shauna Stein and Giorgio Armani.

For weary visitors or non-shoppers, there is the 30-screen AMC theater or the iWERKS four-storey screen. Or, within walking distance but just off mall property, is the 22-screen Edwards theater complex. Edwards also runs an IMAX theater, which uses large screens, special effects and can project 3-D images.

Or you can enter another zone in magic motion machines, racers, rockets, or watercraft, or on skates, skis, skateboards, motorcycles or prop cycles.

Television screens, loud music, singing animals, dancing plants and light shows keep the enclosed mall jumping.

There are one million shoppers who live within 16 kms of the mall, said Mance, 52, who started as an architect building malls. But credit card receipts show that the mall is drawing people from 160 kms around. "Our studies tell us that 56 percent of our customers come from beyond 30 kms," he said.

The mall hosts 200 tour buses a month and even has a director of tourism. Japanese tourists are so profitable for the mall that the 14-member management staff took Japanese lessons, and Sunday mall hours were expanded to catch tour buses headed from L.A. International Airport to Las Vegas. The Wolfgang Puck Cafe does a great box lunch business during those bus stops.

The average domestic shopper spends $109 per visit, while the average international visitor spends $435 per stop, Mance said. (Associated Press)

Too warm-hearted to give Dad the cold shoulder

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

Dear Ruthie, My father-in-law, whom most of my husband's family consider "senile" or "just plain dotty," is a sweet man, who has a tendency to run on a bit at the mouth.

From the moment I met my husband's father, he grasped that I was an easy target for his ramblings. At first, I was too polite to move away from him when he sat down next to me and dominated my time, my ear, and my shoulder. (The rest of the family had no qualms about putting an abrupt, almost rude, stop to this.)

But as time went on, I began to grow weary of spending every visit engrossed in one-sided conversations with my father-in-law. Yet I still felt, as I do now, that he deserved respect, especially since he is a kind, well-meaning person.

The problem is now complex. My mother-in-law passed away last year. My father-in-law was heartbroken and has become even more talkative as a result. My husband, his sister and his brother, as well as other family members, have even less patience for him now than they had before.

We have all been discussing the question of what is to become of him now that he is living alone. Everyone has come to the conclusion that the most appropriate place for him to live would be with my husband and me - since I am the only one who "can tolerate being around him for long stretches."

On one hand, I feel it is cruel to speak of this man as though he were an imbecile, without a will of his own. In addition, I feel sorry for him and think that perhaps they are right. On the other, I am afraid to agree to having him move in with us, as my husband is sure to shirk responsibility for his father's well-being, leaving it up to me. What can I do?
Interested in Outcast In-law
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Put-Upon,

Your manners and sense of duty are as admirable as they are appropriate. It is for this reason that you should be extra wary about taking your father-in-law into your home on a permanent basis.

Your husband and the rest of his family may indeed be rude. But they seem to possess a certain self-preservation which you lack. Apparently, they know how to set limits with this man – something which you have never learned to do; something which would have served you in good stead at this stage.

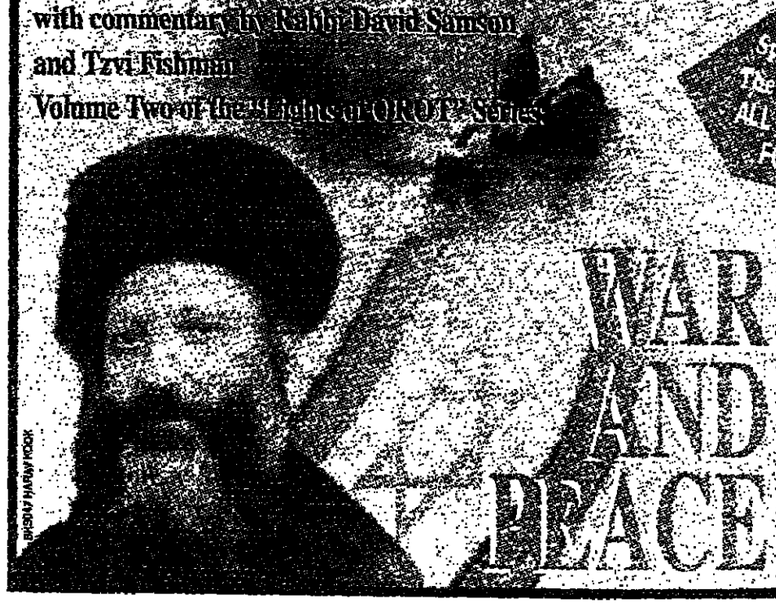
Ironically, the very trait which is responsible for your husband's family considering you to be the "solution" to the problem of what to do with your father-in-law is the one that makes you the worst choice possible. The pattern of relations which has evolved between you and your father-in-law is not conducive to emotional health. Particularly your own.

If you are seriously considering accepting this burden, you will have no alternative but to assume a thicker skin in relation to your relative. Perhaps your husband could give you a few pointers. After all, it is not actual familial duty that he shuns – if he is willing to have his father move into his home. It is simply being "bombarded" by what you describe as his father's "ramblings," which he does not permit to permeate his "personal space."

Being dutiful is one thing. Allowing duty to dominate your time, your ear and your shoulder is quite another.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il

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GRAPEVINE By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When in Paris...

When in Rome, do as the Romans do, but when in Paris, rely on your instincts. Which is exactly what **Marty Pazner**, wife of **Avi Pazner**, Israel's ambassador to France, did when Prime Minister **Binyamin Netanyahu** and US Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** came for breakfast last Thursday.

Deciding that the customary French fare of croissants and coffee was inadequate, Pazner served up cornflakes, bagels and lox and Danish pastries, which were consumed with gusto by both the Americans and the Israelis. As far as the breakfast was concerned, there was no point of dispute.

KNOWN to have a penchant for tête-à-tête dinners in luxury restaurants, Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, managed to sneak one in at the Bristol Hotel in Paris after checking in close to midnight.

The couple sat in an intimate corner of the hotel restaurant and ate a kosher meal, which was brought in from outside.

REGARDLESS of where she stands in the Likud popularity polls, Communications Minister **Limor Limor livnat** is definitely No. 1 in the field which her ministry represents.

The media and communications magazine *Tikshoret* has placed Livnat first on its list of the 100 most influential people in the communications industry.



Lucky: Shimon Shetreet was a four-time raffle winner at a recent benefit dinner.

AND SPEAKING of communications, Livnat's predecessor in office, Prof. **Shimon Shetreet**, must have been wired for luck last Saturday night when he attended the NIS 500-per-plate benefit dinner at Jerusalem's Shalom Hotel in aid of the Frankfurter Center for the Aged. When the raffles were being drawn, Shetreet won a dinner for two at a local restaurant. A few moments later, his name was called again.

His second win was a cellular phone.

He'd hardly walked away from the podium when he was summoned back to accept his third win – a dinner for two in one of the capital's most prestigious restaurants.

And as if that wasn't enough, he also won the most expensive prize in the draw – a round trip to London.

Organized by socialite and gossip columnist **Sara Davidovich**, together with fellow socialite and gossip writer **Eti Salansky**, the event was in some respects a family affair. Davidovich's husband, **Mati**, like Shetreet, bought several raffle tickets and won two subscriptions to the Jerusalem Theater.

However, he didn't spend as much as Shalom Hotel owner **Micha Levy**, who not only donated the use of the premises and the dinner but also shelled out NIS 1,500 for a silver kiddush cup that was being auctioned, and an additional NIS 1,500 to hear Mati Davidovich sing.

A musician with the IDF orchestra when doing his mandatory army service, Davidovich could quite conceivably have become a professional entertainer had he not embarked on a career as an investment broker.

One of the three Davidovich offspring was also drawn into the arena of community service. **Ori Davidovich**, co-owner of a computer hardware, software and service company, donated two Internet courses to the raffle.

Jerusalem Mayor **Ehud Olmert**, who was persuaded to act as the auctioneer, gave up after selling two items, explaining that most of the people in the room were his friends and he wanted things to stay that way.

His place on the podium was taken over by MK **Rafi Elul**, chairman of the social welfare lobby in the Knesset, but not before Olmert made a personal contribution of NIS 500.

THE RATIO of females to males attending the upcoming Fifth International Conference of Jewish Ministers and Members of Parliament in Jerusalem during the first week of January is significantly higher than that of the Knesset, where only nine of the 120 legislators are women.

Of the 75 participants who have registered to date, 13 are women. The distaff list currently comprises **Teresa de Jesus Cohen dos Santos**, Angola's



Limor Livnat An influential communicator. (Isaac Harari)

Deputy Minister of Health; Dr. **Elisabeth Pittermann** and **Anna Elisabeth Haselbach**, members of the Austrian Parliament; Dr. **Ana Kessler**, a member of the Argentinian parliament; Canadian parliamentarians **Elinor Caplan** and **Sheila Finestone**; **Lilly Peres** of Santiago, Chile; **Rebecca Greenspan**, vice-president and construction minister of Costa Rica; **Elene Tevdoradze**, a parliamentarian from Tbilisi, Georgia; **Ruth Marjash**, a Latvian MP; Dutch MP **Hanneke Gelderblom-Lankhout**; South African MP Dr. **Ruth Rabinowitz**; and from the US, **Liz Brater**, state representative for Michigan, and **Florence Shapiro**, state senator for Texas.

In addition to meeting with their Israeli counterparts, the visitors will meet with President **Ezer Weizman**, Prime Minister Netanyahu, opposition leader **Ehud Barak**, Knesset Speaker **Dan Tichon**, Jewish Agency chairman **Avraham Burg**, various mayors, leaders of industry, and prominent business executives.

WHILE controversy continues to mount over whether jubilee celebrations should be canceled and the funds transferred to social welfare needs, **Eitan Drori**, the director of Keren Hayesod Study Missions, is going ahead with plans to reconstruct a detention camp in Cyprus along the lines of those in which illegal immigrants turned back by the British were forced to live.

Cypriot Ambassador **Euripides Evriavades** is equally excited about it. Drori is looking for people who spent time in these camps



Kevin Costner had plans to make a movie with Princess Diana.

to describe life there to *participants of Keren Hayesod missions traveling via Cyprus to Israel.*

WHEN **Kevin Costner** announced after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, that he and the princess had been planning to make a film together, the general reaction, particularly at Buckingham Palace, was that Costner was using Diana's tragic death to gain publicity for himself.

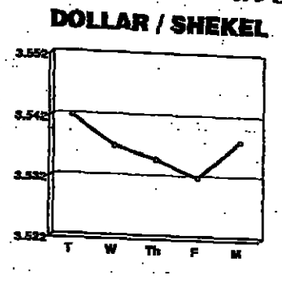
But now it seems that Costner had been misjudged. Diana's former sister-in-law, **Sarah (Fergie) Ferguson**, the ex-wife of the duke of York, has confirmed the story.

During a visit to Hollywood several months ago, Fergie accepted Costner's invitation to a candlelit dinner and discovered that romance was not on his mind. He was much more interested in securing Diana's phone number, and Fergie obliged. Costner called Diana, shared his dream with her, and she evidently had agreed to help him make it a reality.

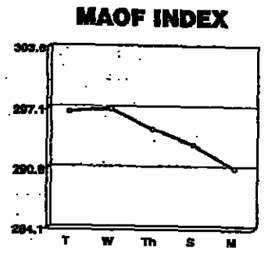
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in brief

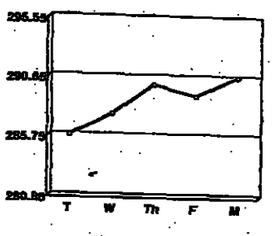
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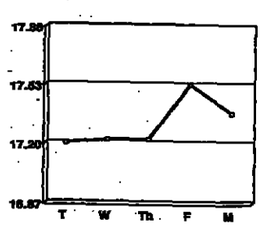
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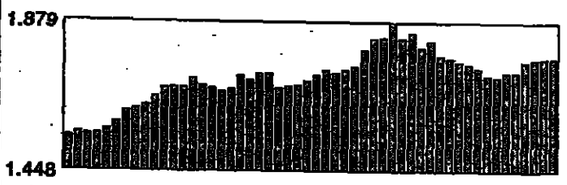
GOLD
$ per ounce



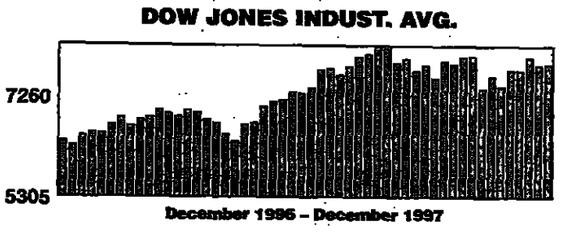
OIL
$ per barrel of brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



BMW, Tecnomatix pen "multi-million dollar" deal

Tecnomatix Technologies of Herzliya yesterday said it reached a "multi-million dollar," three-year agreement to provide BMW with its computer-aided production engineering (CAPE) software.

The contract with BMW is Tecnomatix's largest European deal to date.

"We are very pleased that BMW selected Tecnomatix as its CAPE partner; this selection reflects BMW's long-term commitment to our technology," CEO Harel Beit-On said in a statement.

Tecnomatix's CAPE software allows production engineers to create virtual machines and production equipment models, interactively arrange them into a virtual manufacturing line, and manipulate them to perform on-screen manufacturing activities. The software is designed to shorten the time it takes to develop and manufacture a new car.

In addition to cars, the company's software is used in the making of airplanes and devices for heavy industry. Earlier this year, the company also recently announced plans to supply its virtual manufacturing software to clean up the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Jennifer Friedlin

MKs to discuss foreign workers

Against the backdrop of growing unemployment, the Knesset's House Committee yesterday held a closed discussion on the issue of foreign workers.

The committee appointed Labor MK Ophir Pines and Likud MKs Meir Sheetrit and Maxim Levy to work out a formula to determine the desired number of foreign workers. The MKs will bring their findings back to the committee for further discussion.

Batsheva Tsur

Gibor Sabrina to shut down

Histradrut makes overture to keep the factory open

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK and DAVID HARRIS

Gibor Sabrina Textile Enterprises will close down and dismissal letters will be sent to all 700 workers, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Yehoshua Levit ruled yesterday morning.

In response, the Histadrut yesterday began working to avert the closure and offered to transfer NIS 2 million to the company to keep the factory open for an additional six to 12 months, according to Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz. This will allow workers to search for work with dignity, he said.

The total number of people who will be thrown out of work by closure, including those employed by subcontractors, is more than 1,000.

"If I were to put two collection boxes in the street right now and say to the citizens of Israel 'donate NIS 2 million to save 1,000 people even for six months,' it would take an hour to raise the money," said Peretz. "It's right to let the workers hunt for jobs before you throw them into the street.

"If this is an economy without a conscience, without a soul, then the bottom line doesn't interest me. If what we get is a balanced budget, an excellent inflation [rate], a wonderful trade deficit, but people are hungry for bread, none of it is worthwhile."

The court ruling to close the factory was made following the Treasury's conclusion that the debt-ridden firm can not survive economically and the subsequent decision not to give the company's creditors a financial guarantee to cover losses resulting from the factory's continued operation.

Earlier this year the company's secured creditors said they would approve the continued operation of the debt-ridden firm and help cover half of the losses, on condition that their losses will not exceed NIS 2m. Above this sum, the creditors are demanding financial guarantees as a condition for the continued operation of the firm.

"Under these circumstances I see no other alternative but to instruct the temporary liquidator to close the company's plant and to send dismissal letters to the workers," said the judge.

The temporary liquidator will be in charge of guarding the company's assets.

At the hearing, the Histadrut's lawyer said the workers will not give in to the court's decision.

"We can not give up 700 jobs. The workers, the Histadrut and I will fight this," the lawyer said.

A hearing to discuss the liquidation procedure has been set for March 9.

Neeman: State can't save a private enterprise

"Show me a way to make legal the granting of NIS 2m. to Gibor Sabrina and I will be happy do it," Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said after the court ruled to close the textile factory.

Neeman was speaking during a lightning appearance at a Knesset State Control Committee meeting on unemployment and pensions in the public sector.

Committee chairman Yossi Katz said the Treasury should not be permitted to wait until unemployment reaches 200,000 – as the ministry's director-general Shlomo Slavin had predicted – before allowing for new growth in the economy. He demanded that Neeman give the committee details of immediate steps he is ready to take to end unemployment.

"I beg you to try to understand the plight of the workers," he appealed to Neeman.

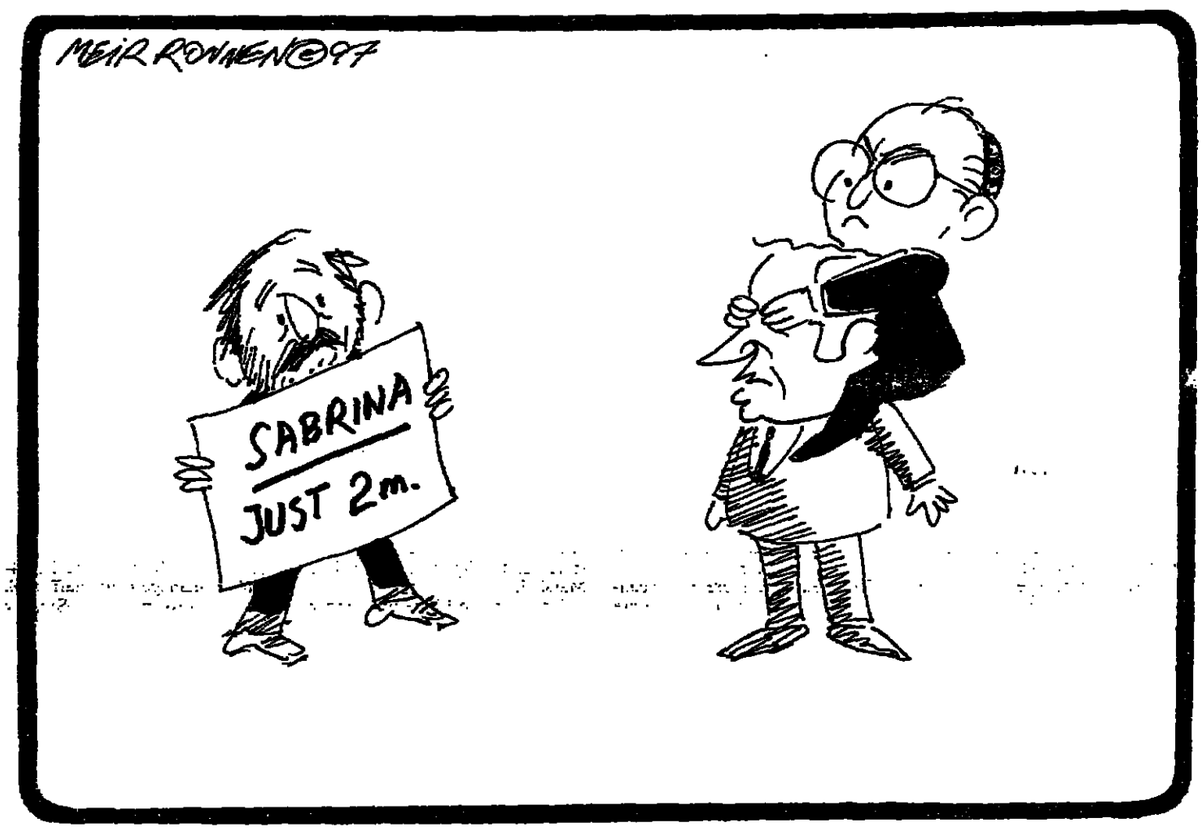
But Neeman denied there is any intention of letting employment grow to 200,000. The current budget and economic policy are aimed at cutting unemployment already in the coming fiscal year, he said.

Asked by Meretz MK Ran Cohen why he is prepared to allow 1,100 workers at Gibor-Sabrina to be thrown into the streets, Neeman replied that the law does not permit the state to intervene to save private enterprises.

Because of pressures connected with the budget discussions, Neeman said he was forced to delay the debate on the issue in the committee until next month.

Meanwhile, two Labor MKs, Ofer Pines and Shalom Simhon, joined by MK Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash) appealed to the committee to support their call to oust Neeman from office over his failure to save the Gibor-Sabrina workers and over the unemployment situation.

Batsheva Tsur



Number of jobless Druse, Arabs on the rise

By DAVID RUDGE

Unemployment has risen dramatically among Druse and Arabs in the past few months, especially as a result of the closure of textile factories.

Arab and Druse council heads charged that thousands of people had been thrown out of work, pushing the jobless rate in the two communities way above the national average.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Forum of Arab Council Heads and chairman of Mash'had Local Council, near Nazareth.

"There are some places, like Rahat in the Negev and Ein Mahil, near Nazareth, where the unemployment rate is over 20 percent," said Suleiman.

"The situation is also bad in Shfaram, Nazareth, Mughar, Yirka, as well as Ein Mahil and Rahat where textile factories or sewing workshops have been shut down.

"About 40 places have been closed in the past two years. We are talking about 6,000 to 7,000 people who had employment and now they don't.

"The socioeconomic situation in the Arab sector was worse than elsewhere to start with so the effects of these redundancies is even more acute – and there are no alternatives," said Suleiman.

His comments were echoed by Beit Jann Local Council chairman Yusef Kabalan, who charged that the situation in Druse communities was equally as bad.

"Those who worked at Gibor Sabrina have also been sacked now, as well as those who worked in Yirka, Shfaram, Yanuch, Hurfeish and Beit Jann itself," said Kabalan.

"There are no industrial zones, either for heavy or light industry or high tech, in the Druse sector, so there are no alternatives.

Kabalan maintained that the situation has been exacerbated in his own village because municipal workers had not yet received their November salaries.

"The municipal workers have been on strike for the past three days and justifiably so. The problem is that the government ministries have not transferred funds to us on time."

The Interior Ministry is pressing the local council for a recovery plan that will enable it to run municipal affairs more efficiently and reduce the deficit that has accumulated.

Kabalan said that a recovery plan has been drawn up, but he charged that the deficit did not justify holding back funds that were needed to pay workers' salaries.

In a related development, Labor MK Salah Tarif vowed to take "unparliamentary" measures to prevent the finance minister from speaking during the budget debate if the Treasury continues to refuse to help bail out Gibor-Sabrina.

Tarif, chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, said hundreds of the concern's employees were Druse, who would be left with no other form of livelihood if it closed.

Arafat, PM not invited to Davos summit

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat are not invited to the Davos, Switzerland economic conference scheduled for next month, Gregory Blatt, a representative of the World Economic Forum, which is organizing the event, said yesterday.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres, Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman are invited.

Blatt, who was here as a guest of Federation of Chambers of Commerce President Danny Gillerman, said that there is no boycott of Netanyahu or Arafat, but the policy of the forum is to invite different heads of state each year.

Netanyahu and Arafat had expressed interest in being invited to the event, considered to be the second most important annual economic meeting, sources close to the leaders said.

However, given the state of the peace process and the politicization of last month's Qatar conference – also organized by the World Economic Forum – the event's planners decided that Davos would not focus on the Middle East.

Next month's meeting will concentrate on Latin America and the Far East, and heads of state from these regions have been invited.

(Globes)

Clal offers to buy 11.53% of Clal Trading

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Clal Israel announced yesterday that it has offered to buy 11.53% of the shares of its subsidiary Clal Trading, traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The other 88.47% are already held by Clal.

The price for the company was set at NIS 14.86 per share, which is 28.3% above yesterday's closing share price. This price values the company at NIS 150 million, which is 24% higher than its equity capital.

In a statement, Clal Israel said that the move will allow shareholders to exercise their options at a price which is relatively high despite the low trading activity in the share and the results of the company.

A Clal spokesman said the offer is in line with the company's strategic plan. According to the restructuring plan, announced earlier this year, Clal trading will enter information technology and exit its retail sales and marketing businesses. It was decided that Clal Trading will focus on computers and logistics.

Korea, Thailand, Indonesia cut to 'junk' at Moody's

By ALEC D.B. MCCABE

HONG KONG (Bloomberg) – Asia's economic crisis deepened yesterday, as Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut the credit ratings of South Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia to below investment grade, sparking an immediate surge in borrowing costs.

The unprecedented move – which affects about $275 billion in debt – cripples the cash-strapped region's ability to raise money from international investors. It raised the specter of thousands of corporate bankruptcies, sending Asian stock and currencies into a tailspin.

"They should have done it ages ago, at least put them on the 'watch' list," said Pierre Naim, who manages $50m. in emerging market debt, including the Bahamas-based Rainbow Global High Yield Fund. "The rating agencies, are no longer less pessimistic than the pessimists."

Since the downgrade announcement, the yield premium investors demand to own Asian corporate debt has risen by as much as two percentage points. Korea Development Bank's global bond due in 2006, which was yielding more than 500 basis points more than US Treasuries before the downgrade, is now yielding about 700 basis points more.

Korean financial markets tumbled after the downgrade. The won weakened to 1,712.5 won per dollar, adding to its almost 50-percent decline this year. The benchmark Kospi stock index fell 4.75 points, or 1.19 percent, to 395.44 points. The three-year corporate bond yield rose to a record high of 30% from Friday's 27.2%.

For many international investors, the cut in credit ratings means they will now have to sell bonds that have already fallen precipitously this year, as Asian currencies tumble. Many investment funds' own rules bar them from owning debt rated below investment grade.

"People are dumping the market, but they aren't looking at what they're selling," Naim said. Korea Electric Power's bonds due in 2003, as an example, are yielding 850 basis points more than Treasuries, a yield that Naim said is not justified.

"Show me a utility that has gone bust. There've been plenty on the brink, but Korea Electric is a cash cow," Naim said, who doesn't believe default is a prospect for the company. At worst, it would have to restructure its debt, he said.

Tokio Fire & Marine Insurance Co., Japan's largest insurance company, isn't allowed to own bonds rated below "BBB," two notches above where Korean sovereign debt is now rated. The company still owns Korean debt, an official said.

"The most sensible thing to do is to sell your bonds," said Hiroyuki Kotoku, Tokio Fire & Marine's portfolio manager for global investment. "But what may be sensible is often not practical. When everyone's trying to sell, you just can't find any buyers."

Granted, many Asian bonds were already trading at junk-bond levels before the announcement by Moody's. Thailand's Yankee bond due in 2007 is yielding 400 basis points more than Treasuries, up about 150 basis points from late Friday.

R&D expenditure to rise 2.2% in '97

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

National expenditure on research and development in the civilian sector is expected to total NIS 7.6 billion in 1997, a 2.2 percent increase over 1996, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

In 1995, the most recent year for which the statistics are available, Israel's civilian R&D expenditures totalled 2.2% of gross domestic product, ranking the country No. 6 out of all the OECD countries.

At 3% of GDP, Sweden allocates relatively more money than any OECD country, followed by Japan (2.7%), Switzerland (2.6%), Germany (2.4%), and Finland (2.4%). The US ranks seventh, spending 2.1% of GDP on research and development, while Italy, Spain and Greece ranked lowest on the list.

The R&D expenditures include the goods and services produced in Israel for civilian R&D in the industrial and other business sectors, universities, the government, and a variety of research institutes.

The business sector will record R&D expenses of NIS 3.5b., nearly half of all the money going to R&D, while the remainder will be reported by the other sectors.

Forty-four percent of the NIS 1.025b. the government spends on civilian R&D goes to general knowledge applications, 37% goes to the industrial sector, 10% goes agriculture, 4% goes to social services, and 5% goes to "other."

Money supply down 4.3% in November

By DAN GERSTENFELD

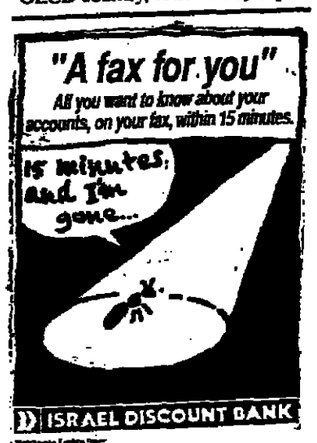
The Bank of Israel's M1 money-supply gauge dropped 4.3 percent in November, the central bank announced yesterday.

The money supply last fell by 2% in September, but rose 2.3% in October. The decline is the largest recorded in 1997.

The report follows last week's surprising decline of the November consumer price index, which decreased 0.3%.

The news of anti-inflationary trends sparked hope that the Bank of Israel may cut interest rates when it sets the key lending rate for January next week. Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel last changed interest rates in August, raising the rate by 0.7 percent to 13.4%.

Analysts predict the central bank will leave its key lending rate unchanged. "Despite expectations of lower inflation, I believe that Frenkel will leave the rates unchanged, as he prefers to wait until after the approval of the budget," said Hadar Oshrat at Ilanot Batucha.



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Bethlehem: From 'little town' to boom town?

Within the context of a venerated past and a volatile present, Bethlehem is hoping to spruce itself up for a viable future

By PATRICIA GOLAN

No matter what the situation, it seems, tourists always go to Bethlehem on Christmas. This year, despite some cancellations, some 5,000 visitors are expected tomorrow evening and 10,000-12,000 on Christmas Day – about the same as in previous years. Bethlehem officials figure that by year's end, about 1.25 million visitors will have come to Bethlehem.

But these figures belie the severe damage done to the local tourism industry by the unstable political situation, and Bethlehem – one of the three essential Christian tourist sites – is hurting.

Tourism to Israel has dropped 15% in the last six months. Travel throughout the region was dealt yet another blow with the massacre of tourists by Islamic extremists last month in Egypt.

The occasional violence and Israeli closures of the area have nearly brought Bethlehem's only real industry – tourism – to its knees. Those tourists who do visit Bethlehem rarely stay in town for more than an hour. There's the requisite visit to the Church of the Nativity, a stop, perhaps, at a souvenir shop on the main highway, and they're whisked out of town.

Bethlehem officials blame Israeli tourism officials for discouraging tourists from staying in Bethlehem overnight, scaring off visitors by saying it is dangerous. Bethlehem merchants are furious that the larger souvenir businesses in town make deals with certain Israeli tour operators, in which the company and the tour guide get hefty kickbacks for making sure their groups go only to their shops.

Tourists are "led like sheep" into the large stores, complains George Baboun, who owns a shop around the corner from Nativity Square. He says the small shop owners don't get their fair share of what little tourism business there is.

Unemployment in the Bethlehem area is at its highest level ever. Several factories in the city of 50,000 have recently closed. The situation, says Baboun, is desperate. "The majority of the people in Bethlehem, and in this area, are living from tourists, whether hotels or restaurants or souvenir shops or olive-wood or mother-of-pearl factories," explains Baboun. "Their lives are connected directly with the field of tourism; the quieter the situation will be, the better for them."

Quiet or not, the town center is, frankly, a dump. Western visitors expecting a sanitized Christmas-card Bethlehem are often shocked by the shabby Middle Eastern reality. So far, complain Bethlehem officials, none of the money pledged by international donors following the 1993 Oslo peace agreements to help the Palestinians build infrastructure projects has found its way to Bethlehem. The city has only 850 hotel rooms today; officials say 2,000 more rooms are needed by the year 2000.

A few new hotels and bank buildings have been constructed in the last three years, including a luxurious six-story office building housing the Arab Bank and a Palestinian investment company. But this is all coming from private investments.

Now help for Bethlehem may be on the way, in time for the rapidly approaching millennium. The city has just launched "Bethlehem-2000," an ambitious plan for the rehabilitation of the town. Drawn up by local and UNESCO experts, the plan outlines 91 projects, mainly for improving infrastructure, such as sewage lines, electricity and roads. The money is to come from various countries but is separate from other funds pledged by the donor countries for the West Bank and Gaza.

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser says specific commitments for $12 million in projects out of the estimated $250m. price tag have already been made by Sweden, Canada, Spain, France, Greece and Japan. Major renovations of the central Manger Square are planned, including replacing the asphalt pavement – now full of exhaust-spewing tour buses – with a tiled piazza with trees and fountains. The ugly cement-block police station on the square will be torn down, and in its place will be a civic center including an auditorium and museum of art and religion. A new central bus station is in the advanced planning stages. Also slated to be rehabilitated are Star Street, the old Bethlehem market, and seven of the city's crumbling medieval archways.

Nasser says he's optimistic that all this can be accomplished by 2000. "Bethlehem is going to be the most prosperous city vis-a-vis tourism, hotels, and all the services needed for the pilgrims. And we will have more tourists," he boasts.

Earlier this month in Paris at the annual conference of international donors, sponsored by the World Bank, representatives pledged $750m. to the Palestinian authority for various infrastructure projects. The money is part of an initial $3.8 billion five-year aid program pledged in 1993 by the international community at the start of the peace process. In addition, donors at the Paris meeting promised $150m. in insurance for private investments in the Palestinian areas. World Bank officials referred to this as a kind of "political risk insurance" to reassure private investors who may be wary about placing their money in the region.

With repeated Israeli border closures imposed in the wake of terrorist attacks, investors from abroad are reluctant to sink money into projects when there's no ensured free passage of goods – a situation as critical for Bethlehem as elsewhere.

Bethlehem economist Samir Hazboun conducts feasibility studies for potential foreign investors, mainly Palestinians living abroad. "At the end, the investors are asking us very difficult questions, like 'Can I travel freely here?' And we cannot answer this. The Israeli side is not making it easy. Even for investors with foreign passports, the Israeli authorities sometimes make difficulties. They're worried they will be returnees."

Last August the group of American Jewish and Arab businessmen, known optimistically as Builders for Peace, shut its doors. Builders, with the encouragement of the US government, had promoted private funding for various projects in Gaza and the West Bank. But a combination of factors forced the group to fold its tents after only three years: endless delays and problems getting goods and supplies in and out of the Palestinian areas, the lack of basic Palestinian legal and commercial structures, and the refusal of US aid agencies to guarantee certain projects that were deemed too risky.

Some legal experts in the PA have been urging the Legislative Council to enact changes in the old Jordanian commercial laws to attract more investors. One of the problems is the lack of legal mechanisms for getting debt relief – something, says one Bethlehem PA official, that has discouraged investment from abroad. A plan for the construction of a Holiday Inn in Bethlehem, for example, was abandoned, says the official, when the backers could not get adequate guarantees for collecting possible future debts.

But all these obstacles do not seem to have intimidated a group of local and foreign Palestinian investors who are about to launch a grandiose plan to construct a $45m. five-star hotel and commercial complex in Bethlehem, to be managed by Intercontinental. The 250-room hotel will incorporate the turn-of-the-century Arab mansion, known as Beit Jasr, next door to Rachel's Tomb, on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem highway. The estate, with its Italian-crafted stone embellishments, castle-like turrets, and inlaid marble floors, will be completely renovated and serve as the main entrance to the hotel which will be built on the seven-dunam lot behind it.

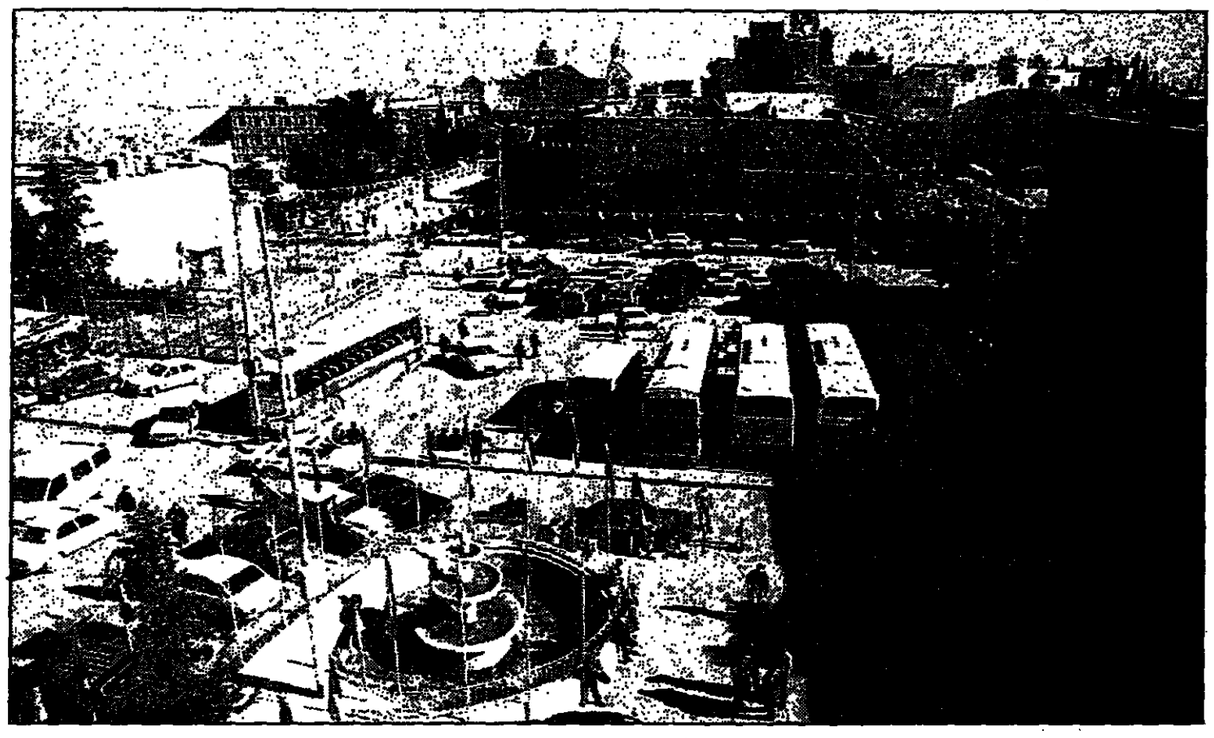
The developer, the Palestine Tourism Investment Company, has made an agreement with the Palestinian Authority to construct a building on another site for the girls' school which now occupies the premises.

The company is a subsidiary of the Palestine Development and Investment Company (Padico), which has been mobilizing wealthy expatriate Palestinians for business projects in Gaza and the West Bank for three years. Padico shareholders include influential Palestinians with business empires in the Gulf and the West.

Palestine Tourism Investment Co. chairman Hanni Abu Dayyeh says 60 percent of the investors in the Bethlehem Intercontinental project live abroad, many in North America. But Bethlehem already has several new hotels that stand empty most of the year for lack of tourists. What can the investors be thinking? Abu Dayyeh calls his company's project an "act of faith."

"You must remember that our investors came because of the peace process," he explains. "This peace, in their minds, is a new era for the Palestinian side that maybe has its ups and downs, but it's an irreversible process. They came here to build a new Palestine."

Abu Dayyeh insists that Palestinian investors abroad are encouraged by the fact that local businessmen like him are willing to take risks. "We don't fit the picture of the perfect investment criteria. But we're saying, 'We'll take the risks, if you do.' We Palestinians have been living and investing here under dire circumstances and it hasn't stopped us," declares Abu Dayyeh.



Tourists will pour into Bethlehem's Nativity Square on Christmas Eve, but for most of the year the city is in the economic doldrums. Help may be on the way with 'Bethlehem - 2000.' (Brian Hendler)

Reaching for the stars

Gilat Satellite Networks has become a key player in the satellite communications industry

By NICKY BLACKBURN

It doesn't take much guesswork to realize how rapidly Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. is expanding. Drive down a half-finished road in the Kiryat Aryeh area of Petah Tikva and you soon get the picture. There, amid all the rubble and dust of a developing area, stand two huge and luxurious buildings, one blue, one green, which together cost Gilat some $20 million.

While one block is already inhabited, staff members are already chomping at the bit to move into the other, which is nearing completion. If 14,880 sq. meters of new headquarters and manufacturing facilities fail to impress, then take a look at the figures. Founded in 1987, Gilat, which designs, manufactures, markets and supports Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellite earth stations and related hub equipment and software, has managed in less than a decade to become a key player in the satellite communications industry.

In 1992, sales were $5.5 million. By 1996, they reached $75m. Estimates for 1997 suggest that sales will reach an all-time high of $90-$100m., while cash reserves have now reached $100m., making Gilat richer than ever.

The research company Comsys, an expert on the VSAT industry, said: "Gilat's achievements over the past few years have been extremely impressive. It has managed to take a new VSAT technology into an established market and carve out a considerable market share."

Gilat, which is traded on the Nasdaq over-the-counter stock exchange and employs 400 people, was set up by five friends, four of whom met while serving in the IDF. "When we started it was just one floor of a building and six employees," says Yoel Gat, chairman, CEO and co-founder of Gat. "There were no venture capital companies around and no financing available so we bootstrapped our way up. Luckily we had an infrastructure that was well entrenched and knew how to work together."

During the first five years the company developed two main products, both of which are geared towards customers who have a large number of remote sites spread over a wide geographical area. The OneWay VSAT is a data broadcast receiver which can be used for news distribution and paging, while the TwoWay VSAT is used by banks, retailers, gas stations etc., and has a number of applications including inventory control, credit-card authorization, lottery transactions and prescription adjudication.

The TwoWay VSAT was introduced in 1992 and proved an instant success. Though the market was already laden with competing products, Gilat managed within two years to snatch 15 percent of the market share from rivals. By 1996, this figure had risen to 37 percent and Gilat became the No. 2 player in the field, after the US company, Huges Network System.

Gilat's secret weapon was cost. It outsourced production of its RF equipment to builders of mass-produced radio equipment, substantially reducing prices in the process. When the TwoWay VSAT was released onto the market, it cost just $4,500, compared to competing products that cost at least $9,000.

On top of this, says Gat, Gilat's products soon became synonymous with dependability. "The TwoWay VSAT is the most reliable in the industry," he boasts. "On average our product breaks down every 15 years, which is a far better rate than our competitors. Our product works and works and works."

Today the TwoWay VSAT is Gilat's biggest seller providing some 75 percent of company sales.

In 1993 Gilat raised $23m. in a public offering on Nasdaq. A second offering was held in 1995 when Gilat raised an additional $50m. enabling it to upgrade facilities and put more effort into product development. The company also began an expansion program, opening offices in the US, France, China and Thailand.

In January 1997, Gilat acquired Florida-based Skydata Inc., which specializes in the VSAT-paging and data broadcast industries and has an international customer base that includes AT&T Wireless, Motorola, PageMart and United Press International. The acquisition offered Gilat an additional US base of operations to help support its customers and marketing efforts in North America and also gave it an important springboard to Latin America. Through the recent merger Gilat aims to strengthen its line of VSAT-based paging products, and in particular is looking at the distribution of paging information to remote sites.

Paging is not the only area where Gilat hopes to spread its wings. While the company continues to profit from the traditional VSAT market, which is growing at a rate of 20-30 percent a year, it has also been hunting aggressively for new markets which might speed up Gilat's development.

In 1993, it began work in the field of rural telephony with three new products: DialAway (rural telephony to remote areas), FaraWay (satellite telephony), and ISAT (a voice frame relay product), which have recently been released onto the market. The new products are specifically designed for developing countries such as China and India, where conventional telephone infrastructure is poor.

Aware of the heavy competition in this area from giants such as Motorola and Loral which have invested billions in building the necessary infrastructure, Gilat is trying to keep costs down. Its products use existing geostationary satellites which, according to Gat, are more cost-effective than alternatives such as the planned Low Earth-Orbit (LEO) and geostationary satellite mobile phone systems.

"Our system will cost-five to 15 cents per minute, compared to $3 a minute for Iridium and Globalstar and our equipment costs will also be low," says Gat. "Our technology exists, it requires no infrastructure, and there are no capacity limits, all of which are weaknesses of our rivals. We offer a better price, less problems with regards to voice quality and no limit to the number of channels we employ."

Gilat also aims to get to the market first. To do this it has opened a subsidiary in Holland, Global Village Telecom BV, which will provide services and expertise, and establish joint ventures or partnerships with local service providers.

So far, Comincon of Russia has bought a FaraWay network to provide high-quality telephone services to businesses, and Global Village Telecom recently set up a Chilean company which has been awarded the right, by the Chilean government, to provide telecommunications services to over 1,500 villages in 42 regions in that country. Some 1,500 pay phones, worth an estimated $5m. to Gilat, have been scheduled for delivery by December 1998.

"We have competitors, but for the first time in the company's history, we are the big guys in the field," says Gat.

Gilat is also focusing on developing a new product line for satellite-delivered Internet applications. At present getting high-speed access to the Internet is expensive and difficult but Gat believes VSATs can overcome this gap. Two products recently developed are Internet Access by Skystar Advantage, which uses a satellite link for the connection to and from the Internet backbone, and SkySurfer 1, a receiver board placed inside the PC that receives Internet information at rates much higher than are available over most current terrestrial telecommunication networks.

"This is a small field now but it's moving rapidly and we hope to be a major player in this arena," says Gat.

In the US, Gilat sold SkySurfer to Rite Aid, the country's largest pharmacy chain, for each of its 4,000 drugstores. It will be used for on-line prescription verification and for broadcasting background music in the stores. Installation of the network began in 1997's last quarter.

In 1997, the new areas of paging, rural telephony and Internet access made up between 5-10% of company sales and Gat believes that by 1999 this figure will have risen to 50%. He hopes to shake up these markets in much the same way that the TwoWay VSAT did in 1992.

"We are much more market driven today," he says. "We're developing strategic business units that go after each of these markets. The products may be similar to those we're developing elsewhere in the company but we want people with specific knowledge of each field to develop them. At the end of the day we may sell the same product but it's to different people and in a different language." In the meantime, however, Gat says Gilat has no plans to neglect its traditional products, but instead seeks to gain market share by improving them.

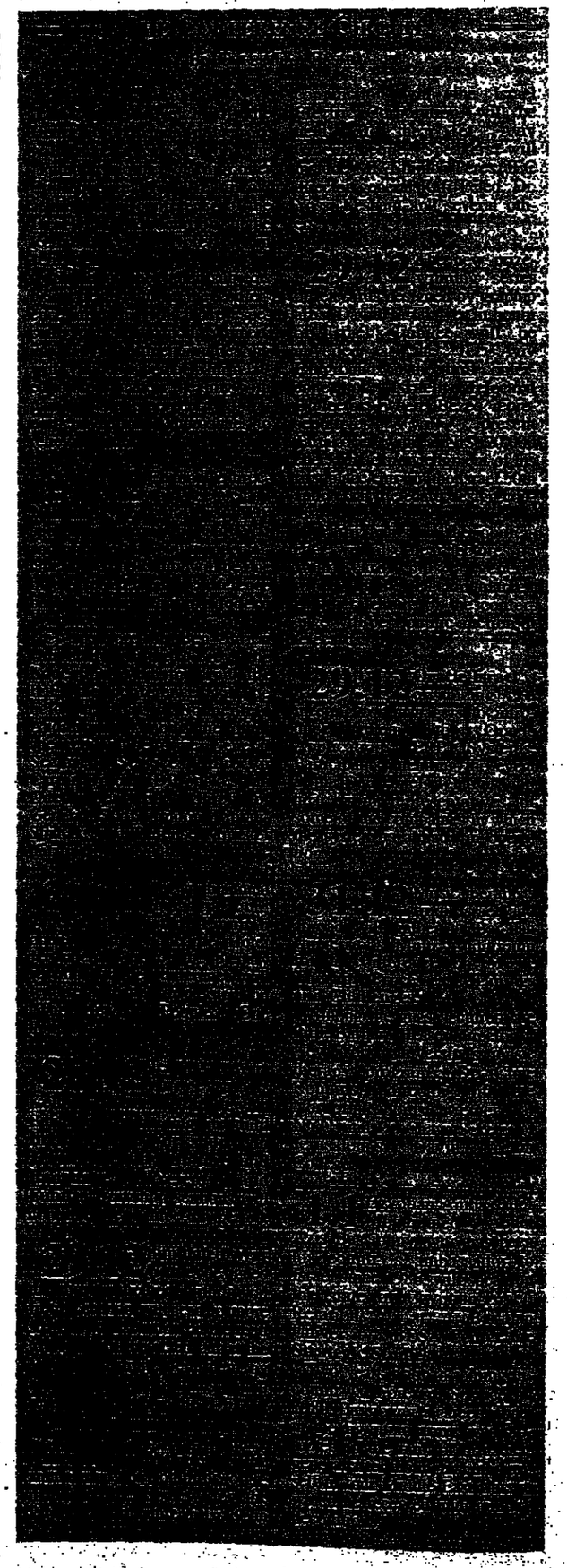
"We still have huge opportunities to find new applications for our products," he says. "We aim to transform current manufacturing rates of tens of thousands of VSATs, to 100s of thousands in the future."

To do this, however, Gilat must first of all incorporate all the growth that is now taking place at the company. Gat admits there are disadvantages to rapid growth, not the least of which is having to train additional staff, and the danger of becoming a large and unwieldy operation.

But he also believes that the influx of new staff will strengthen the company. "We can now concentrate on further areas," he says.

Nor does he think that Gilat has lost any of its continuity. All five of the original founder members still work for the company, while some 45 of the first 50 staff members still contribute in some way to Gilat. Gat is thus highly optimistic about the future and determined that his firm will stay in front. "We're in a better position today than we've ever been before. The same attributes that brought us here should enable us to continue to flourish in the years ahead," he says.

Gilat's key strategy is to act big and think small. "We still maintain the spirit of a young entrepreneurial company which looks at every deal as if our whole lives depended on winning it. Once we're in a deal – you don't want to be in our competitors' shoes."



Bits & Bytes

WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

BIRD to fund 16 projects worth $10.5m.: The Israel-US Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation has approved research and development grants worth $10.5m. for 16 joint projects in various high-tech fields. The grants will be used to fund approved joint projects in the software, semiconductor and Internet fields. The BIRD Foundation supports R&D projects jointly run by US and Israeli companies.

Investec-98 to take place in DC: Investec-98, an Israeli high-tech conference, will take place in May 1998 in Washington, DC, as part of jubilee celebrations. It will feature leading Israeli companies and innovations. Lockheed Martin will also participate.

MediaWorks offers high-tech sales course: MediaWorks of Tel Aviv has announced an English-language high-tech sales and marketing course which will help students understand the high-tech market from the perspective of customers and suppliers, explain the various stages of the high-tech sales process and demonstrate how to use the PC to support the high-tech sales process. For more information, call (03) 613-7439.

NetWiz receives $6m. deal: Haifa-based NetWiz Ltd., an I.I.S. Intelligent Information Systems Ltd. subsidiary and a technology leader of routing switches, has signed an agreement with a major LAN switching company, which will sell Netwiz's TurboSwitch 2010 fast desktop switch for the next two years. The deal is worth $6m.

Oracle launches telemarketing center: Oracle Israel recently announced the opening of Oracle Direct, a telemarketing center for its customers. It will function as a information center for all its products, technologies and services, both in Israel and abroad.

MISHTANIM — LEADING TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Clal Insurance	3341.0	-2.5
Clal Israel 1	100.0	-1.5
Dead Sea Works 0.1	1023.0	-2.3
Discount Inv.	9495.0	-2.3
Hapoalim 0.1	893.0	0.2
I.D.B. Dev.	8032.0	-1.9
Tadiran	13023.0	-1.0
Teva	15477.0	0.0

RETZEF — CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
	2800.0	-3.4
Agan	10400.0	-1.0
I.D.B. Holdings	7900.0	-1.1
JCT	24.8	0.0
Ocif	6820.0	-5.0
Urdan	315.0	1.6
Ormat Industries	425.0	-3.4
Azorim	3850.0	0.0
Yiong Industries	858.0	0.9
Elbit Imaging	2220.0	-1.3
Elbit 0.003	1310.0	-3.5
Elbit system	4400.0	-2.4
Elco	2410.0	-1.6
Elkam	382.0	-3.3
Electra	13570.0	-0.8
Electra App	1772.0	1.3
Elco Industries	4900.0	0.0
Al-Rov	2850.0	0.0
Elron 0.003	5250.0	-2.1
Osem Industries	1676.0	-2.2
Africa Hotels	330.0	1.2
Africa Israel 0.1	21600.0	2.9
Africa Israel 1	198900.0	1.8
Ackerstein Ind.	361.0	-2.4
Orbit	2760.0	0.0
Bezeq	932.0	-1.4
First Int'l 1	47300.0	0.2
First Int'l 5	249100.0	-2.0
First Int'l Mort	55500.0	0.0
Bromine	2880.0	-1.0
Baran	2680.0	-3.6
Bayside 1	44900.0	-1.3
Bayside 5	205800.0	-2.0
Granit Hacarmel	535.0	-1.8
Delek 0.1	11960.0	-1.2
Delek Car	538.0	1.1
Dan Hotels	805.0	-1.2
Dankner	1400.0	0.0
Development Mort	24500.0	0.0
Discount Bank	360.0	0.0
Discount 01	6.3	-14.9
Darban	680.0	-1.3
ILDC	1787.0	-2.3
Ham-Let	2200.0	0.0
Harel Mishmar 1	3110.0	-2.8
Harel Mishmar 5	14700.0	-0.3
Vardinon	26600.0	0.0
Israel Corp. 1	25800.0	0.0
Israel Corp. 5	108000.0	0.0
Tambour	621.0	-1.3
Tempo	1700.0	0.0
Tefahot	214000.0	0.0
Jalora	826.0	0.0
Export Inv.	850.0	-2.3
Isrotel	685.0	0.0
Isramco	3.9	0.0
Wire and Cables	1230.0	0.0
Koor	37700.0	1.1
Koor Bond 5	143.0	1.0
Israel Chemicals	455.0	-3.0
Kitan	330.0	1.5
JEC	1643.0	-1.4
Clal Electronics	49100.0	-2.2
General Bank	10640.0	-1.5
Clal Computers	8670.0	-1.4
Clal Trade	1158.0	-8.8
Clal Industries	1849.0	-1.4
Kosfakm	3200.0	0.0
Leumi Insurance	214.0	-3.2
Bank Leumi 0.1	574.0	0.9
Leumi Mortgage	83000.0	0.0
Leader	1500.0	2.8
Liraz	3490.0	-5.2
Ind Bldgs	601.0	-2.0
Mivtach Shamir	2610.0	-2.6
Mehadrin	9490.0	-0.6
Moffet	190.9	-3.6
Mizrahi Inv.	11200.0	-4.3
Mei Eden	1431.0	-0.7
Makhteshim	2480.0	-1.5
Sali Industries	1450.0	-2.4
Malibu 5	4490.0	-0.4
Milomor	1659.0	0.1
Melisaaron	1060.0	-0.5
Maman	745.6	0.0
Al Paper Mills	14650.0	-1.5
Menorah Ins. 1	1620.0	-1.8
Mashov	412.0	0.7
Mishkan	55100.0	0.2
Matab	2970.0	-1.0
Nice Systems	13590.0	-2.0
Azorim Prop.	599.0	-1.8
Prop & Bldg	27700.0	-0.4
Hadarim Prop.	6300.0	0.0
NATSVA REGULAR	1310.0	-1.7
Solel Bone	3960.0	1.0
Maritime Bank	1527.0	-1.0
Secom	311.0	-3.4
Meir Ezra	2890.0	-4.0
Elite Ind. 1	1907.0	-1.2
Elite Ind. 5	9890.0	0.4
Feuchtwanger 5	53000.0	-0.2
Petrochemicals	2190.0	0.0
FIBI 5	59700.0	1.0
Polgat B 4	870.0	-0.2
United Steel	200.0	-2.0
Plasson	3290.0	-0.3
Phoenix Ins. 1	5050.0	0.0
Poalim Inv.	12510.0	0.0
Packer Steel	7000.0	-1.4
Formula	9490.0	-3.1
Penclase	1304.0	-2.0
Compr	206.0	-1.9
Caniel	2940.0	-2.3
Kardan 5	1674.0	-3.8
Cold Storage 5	7800.0	-1.5
Rogosin	1460.0	-0.7
Blue Square	3100.0	-3.1
Otzar Hashilton	15070.0	-2.1
Supersol	965.0	-1.9
Shekem	70.8	1.0
TAT 5	1645.0	-2.9
Team Computers	5700.0	0.0

KARAM — SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
ATX	147.0	0.0
ATX Bond A	148.0	0.0
Abac	3.9	0.0
Abudi	87.0	-0.7
Ace-Spade	597.0	0.0
Ackerstein Bond B	166.0	0.0
Ackerstein Zn 1	1232.0	-3.0
Ackerstein Zn 5	5796.0	0.0
Adacom Bond 2	0.0	0.0
Adanim	423410.0	0.0
Adler	125.0	0.0
Adsha	96.5	0.0
Adumim	193.0	-0.3
Africa Hotels Bond B	91.5	0.0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	26.7	-2.9
Africa Hotels Warrant 3	99.5	30.1
Africa Israel Bond 2	0.0	0.0
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	131.0	0.4
Afsek Ind	2103.0	0.0
Agis Warrant 2	315.0	-25.7
Agis Warrant 3	138.0	-13.6
Agis Warrant 4	629.0	0.0
Agish Int'l	369.0	0.0
Agis Investments	174.5	8.1
Al-Ben	123.5	-2.0
Al-Ben Bond A	103.0	0.0
Al-Rov	0.0	0.0
Alhe c2	37.0	-1.0
Alhe w6	127.5	-5.6
Alhe wc5	397.0	5.0
Alkonce	663.0	0.0
Alom	358.0	0.0
Alom Warrant 2	0.0	0.0
Alony-Hetz	445.0	-2.8
Alony-Hetz Bond A	212.0	-1.4
Alrod	201.0	-2.4
Alumir	155.0	0.0
Alumit	6638.0	0.0
Amegar	161.0	-4.5
Amiec	466.0	-1.1
Ammeil Warrant 1	34.4	-3.1
Amnot	500.0	-0.6
Ampa Investments	113203.0	1.5
Analyst EMS	971.0	-1.5
Angel Trade	38.0	-4.0
Angel Trade Bond A	150.0	8.3
Angel Trade Bond B	119.0	0.0
Angel Trade Bond C	70.5	0.0
Angel Trade Warrant 2	6.1	0.0
Applicom	2035.0	-1.0
Arad	2348.0	0.0
Arad Towels	853.0	0.0
Arazim	99.5	-0.5
Arazim Bond 1	235.0	0.0
Argaman	225.0	-0.4
Arieden	1253.0	-1.0
Arpal	563.0	0.0
Arvi	57.0	-10.2
Arvi Bond 1	131.0	0.0
Ashkelon Plywood	363.0	0.0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	216.0	4.9
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	121.0	-0.8
Ashied	456.0	-2.9
Ashied Bond A	155.0	0.0
Achot	379.0	-4.8
Achot Bond A	166.5	0.0
Ashtra	94.5	-5.0
Ashtrom Bond 1	168.0	-0.8
Ashtrom Bond 2	151.0	0.3
Ashtrom Ind.	522.0	0.0
Ashtrom Prop	232.0	-0.9
Astrum Bond 1	0.0	0.0
Astrum Bond C	101.5	0.5
Astrum Warrant 2	23.6	-0.8
Astrum Warrant 3	0.0	0.0
Aten	106.0	0.0
Avner	1573.0	-5.0
Avamon	292.0	-0.3
Aura	3568.0	-0.5
Avarts	143.0	-3.0
Avaron Bond A	157.0	0.0
Averbuch Formica	739.0	-0.5
Avni	625.0	0.0
Avni Bond 1	145.5	0.3

	LAST	CHANGE*
Avner	2.4	0.0
Avrot Bond 2	93.5	0.0
Avrot Warrant 2	53.0	-8.4
Ayalon	573.0	-2.1
Azimuth	444.0	0.9
Azorim Prop.	0.0	0.0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	169.0	0.3
Azorim Warrant T	0.0	0.0
Azorim Warrant A	810.0	0.0
Azorim Warrant B	894.0	-4.3
Badash Bond 1	80.5	-1.6
Baldi	316.0	-5.1
Balentine 1	514.0	0.0
Balentine Bond A	127.0	0.0
Balentine Warrant 2	46.3	-11.0
Balron	2050.0	0.0
Bama'asaf	58.0	0.0
Bama'asaf Bond A	136.0	0.0
Bar	378.0	-0.5
Bar Bond A	113.5	0.0
Barad	258.0	0.0
Baranowitz	484.0	-0.4
Baranowitz Bond 1	167.5	0.3
Barkan	737.0	0.3
Barsol	139.5	0.0
Bartal	158.5	0.0
Baumal Moshe	163.5	0.0
Bayside 1	0.0	0.0
Bayside 5	0.0	0.0
Bayside Bond 1	0.0	0.0
Beit Shemesh	900.0	-2.0
Belmon	334.0	-0.4
Ben Yakar Bond A	167.0	0.0
Ben Yakar Bond B	95.5	0.5
Ben Yakar Gat	4449.0	1.5
Ben Yakar Warrant 2	37.1	-11.0
Berman	168.5	0.0
Bilu	962.0	0.0
Bilu Bond A	150.5	0.0
Biner	640.0	0.0
Biri	218.0	0.0
Bonei Tichon	373.0	0.0
Bonjour	294.0	0.0
Boulous Brothers	126.0	-4.5
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	255.0	0.0
Boulous GD	443.0	-0.2
Boulous GD Bond A	131.5	0.0
Brand	101.5	-0.5
Brill	75.0	0.0
Brok Side	38.5	-0.5
Brosh	134.5	-1.8
Building Bank	2187.0	-0.5
Building Resou.	3479.0	-1.0
C Holdings	827.0	-2.7
C Holdings Bond 5	114.0	-0.4
C Holdings Warrant 3	34.8	0.0
CDI	191.0	0.0
CI Systems	199.0	-0.5
Caesarea 1	6524.0	-0.5
Capital	726.0	-3.7
Capital Bond A	105.0	-0.5
Caprice	520.0	0.0
Cargal	735.0	-0.9
Carmel	504.0	0.2
Carmiel	508.0	-3.1
Castro	571.0	-1.6
Catalena 1	646.0	0.0
Catalena 5	0.0	0.0
Cemental	832.0	-10.0
Centre	131.0	3.1
Centre Bond 1	142.0	0.4
Centre Warrant B	0.0	0.0
Cham	527.0	-5.0
Chayun Computers	121.0	0.0
Chemipal	354.0	-0.3
Chim-Nir	369.0	-1.1
Cidab	198.0	-1.0
Clal Computer Warrant 3	225.0	-11.9
Clal Industries Bond	203.0	-0.5
Clal Israel 5	416.0	-0.7
Clal Retail	44067.0	-1.8
Clal Trade	0.0	0.0
Cohen Beni	132.5	0.0
Cohen Dev.	693.0	-1.0
Cohen MM	208.0	0.0
Cold Storage 1	1519.0	-1.2
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	249.0	-0.4
Compl Warrant 1	15.0	6.4
Compulite	270.0	0.0
Comtech	380.0	-2.8
Comtrans	1613.0	-5.5
Contal	870.0	0.0
Contractors	19999.0	0.0
Coral Beach	1372.0	5.0
Credit Line	5.2	0.0
Credit Lines Bond A	40.2	0.0
Cyclone 1	2217.0	-2.2
Cyclone Bond 1	234.0	-0.8
Cyclone Bond 2	136.5	0.0
DARBAN BOND 2	102.0	0.0
DARBAN W2	98.0	-1.5
DSL	1098.0	-1.3
DYG Industries	575.0	0.0
Dafron	1861.0	0.0
Dafron Bond 1	238.0	0.0
Dalin	3.1	0.0
Dan Hotels	0.0	0.0
Dan Rent-A-Car	625.0	-2.9
Dan Rent-A-Car Bond A	155.5	-1.3
Danber 1	3933.0	-2.3
Danber 5	15965.0	-1.0
Danbar Bond A	290.0	0.0
Danbar Resources	7199.0	-0.2
Danbar Resources Bond B	161.5	0.3
Danbar Tech.	6762.0	0.5
Danbar Technologies Bond A	153.5	0.0
Dendor	0.0	0.0
Danel	21.5	-5.3
Danel Bond 1	0.0	0.0
Danel Bond 2	0.0	0.0
Danel Personnel	2393.0	-5.0
Dankner	0.0	0.0
Dankner Bond 1	205.0	-0.5
Dankner Bond 2	142.0	-0.4
Danly	581.0	0.0
Darad	108.0	0.0
Darban	0.0	0.0
Darban Bond A	181.5	-1.6
Darban Warrant 3	96.5	-0.5
Daree	119.5	-0.8
Darlon	135.0	0.0
Data	599.0	0.0
Decision Systems	251.0	-1.2
Decision Systems Warrant 2	0.0	0.0
Degem Systems	457.0	-4.2
Delek Drillings	7.2	-5.3
Delek Oil	1601.0	-1.0
Delta 1	1272.0	0.0
Delta 3	3545.0	-3.0
Destiny	1201.0	0.0
Digel	124.0	-0.4
Drom1	1907.0	0.0
Drom5	7458.0	0.0
Discount a23	0.0	0.0
Discount ar2	0.0	0.0
Dolev	345.0	-0.9
Dolev Bond A	138.5	-0.4
Domicar	398.0	-1.5
Domicar Bond	149.5	0.3
Dor Chim	335.0	-8.0
Dorc w1	99.0	0.0
Dorea	82.0	0.0
Dori c1	95.0	0.0
Dori Engineering	476.0	-2.7
Dori Engineering Bond A	137.5	1.1
Dovrat Bond A	135.0	-0.4
Dovrat Shrem	1085.0	-2.0
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	130.0	0.0
Dubek M	2.3	0.0
Dubek S	2.3	0.0
Dunitz	382.0	0.0
E & M Computing	1243.0	6.2
ESE	1720.0	-2.5
Edgar Albani	123.5	0.0
Edgar Industries	145.5	-1.0
Edgar Industries Bond 2	0.0	0.0
Efar Bond A	98.0	0.0
Einl	242.0	10.0
Eitam	302.0	-9.9
El Bad	1867.0	-3.5
El Canit	871.0	-1.2
El Canit Bond 1	160.5	0.9
Elad	450.0	0.0
Elad Bond A	168.5	-0.6
Elad Bond B	144.0	0.0
Elad c3	74.0	0.0
Elad w5	37.5	-5.1
Elbit Computers Bond B	114.5	-0.9
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	1096.0	-5.3
Elco Industries	0.0	0.0
Elden Tech.	35.0	0.0
Electra Bond	0.0	0.0
Electronics Line	452.0	0.2
Elgar	4092.0	0.0
Elishav	475.0	0.0
Elite Ind. 1	0.0	0.0
Eltech Ind.	885.0	0.0
Ella	451.0	0.0
Ella Bond A	147.0	0.3
Elran	3255.0	-1.5
Elron Warrant 2	1908.0	-4.5
Emek	132.0	0.0
Emyle	543.0	3.0
Engel Const.	893.0	-1.2
Engel Construction Bond	169.0	0.0
Eshed Robotech	218.0	-3.1
Even	294.0	0.0
Evergreen	2692.0	-0.5
Excellence	1911.0	-1.2
Extra	205.0	-1.0
Feldman	154.5	-5.5
Feldman Bond A	159.5	0.0
Feldman Ind.	202.0	6.1
Feldman Warrant 3	45.3	0.0
Fertilisers 1	68.5	-3.5
Fertilisers 5	0.0	0.0
Feuchtwanger 1	10005.0	4.8
Fidelo	3298.0	-3.0
First Int'l Mort	0.0	0.0
Five J Jewelers	510.0	-3.2
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	117.0	0.4
Formica Source	252.0	0.0
Frutarom	321.0	0.0
Gahelet	14324.0	0.3
Galcom	260.0	0.0
Galran	1406.0	0.0
Gama	206.0	0.0
Gamatronic	631.0	-0.5
Gembit	1503.0	-4.0
Gan Shmuel Bond A	95.5	0.0
Gan Shmuel Warrant 3	185.0	-2.4
Gan Shmuel	780.0	0.0
Ganei Hadar	411.0	0.0
Ganei Hadar Bond A	0.0	0.0
Gap Development	121.0	-0.8
Gap Holdings	280.0	0.0
Gazit	674.0	-0.7
Gazit Bond A	0.0	0.0
Gazit Bond B	140.0	0.0
Gazit Bond C	116.0	0.0
Gazit Warrant 4	9.0	-35.7
Gibor Bond 1	65.0	0.0
Gibor Sabrina	62.0	0.0
Gibor Sport	624.0	0.0
Gilboa	139.5	-0.4
Gilo	150.5	0.0
Gilat	1373.0	0.0
Givot Olam Oil	148.5	10.2
Glob Rit	758.0	0.0
Golan	600.0	0.0
Gold	448.0	-5.5
Golden House	365.0	0.0
Golden House Bond 1	254.0	0.0
Golex	147.5	-4.8
Granit Bond	136.0	-0.4
Granit Bond 2	131.0	0.0
Granit Hacarmel	0.0	0.0
Green Software	137.5	10.0
Greenberg	347.0	2.4
Grofit	0.0	0.0
H. Electronics	71.0	0.0
H. Mer	910.0	-1.0
HL Service Bond 1	0.0	0.0
HL Service Bond 2	177.5	0.3
HL Service Bond 3	145.0	0.0
HL Services	2149.0	0.0
Habas	3484.0	0.0

	LAST	CHANGE*
Habas Bond 1	135.5	0.0
Hadar 1	19834.0	0.0
Hadar 5	63512.0	-0.5
Hadar Ins. 1	648.0	-1.1
Hadar Ins. 5	2646.0	-2.5
Hadarim Bond1.	115.5	0.0
Hadarim Prop.	0.0	0.0
Hadarim Warrant1	1242.0	-3.0
Hagal	322.0	0.0
Hagal Bond A	0.0	0.0
Hagal Bond B	153.0	0.0
Ham-Let	0.0	0.0
Hamakor	387.0	-5.1
Hanal	16.2	-14.7
Harel Bond A	399.0	0.0
Harel Michmar 1	0.0	0.0
Hasin Esh	617.0	0.0
Hason	197.0	0.0
Hatehof 1	211.0	0.0
Hatehof 5	0.0	0.0
Hatehof Bond A	143.0	0.0
Hed Arzi Music	373.0	-2.4
Hiron 1	11522.0	5.0
Hiron 5	44043.0	3.0
Hod	168.5	-0.9
Hot	691.0	0.0
Hoft	102.5	0.0
Hydrolics	150.0	0.0
IES Industries	657.0	-2.3
IES Warrant 1	135.0	-3.5
ILDC Bond 6	249.0	0.4
ILDC Bond 7	0.0	0.0
ILDC Hotels	311.0	-1.3
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	168.0	0.0
ILDC Insurance	329.0	-2.4
ILDC Insurance Bond A	132.0	0.0
ILDC Warrant 11	0.0	0.0
ISTA LINES	1384.0	0.0
Ilan Gat	255.0	0.0
Ilan Gat Bond A	149.5	0.3
Imco	1235.0	0.5
Ind Bld Warrant 3	80.5	-1.8
Ind Bldgs R1	41.5	-3.9
Ind.Dev.Bank C	254.0	0.4
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	2433.0	0.2
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	2489.0	-0.8
Ind.Dev.Bank Pref	1710.0	0.0
Independence Mort.	83240.0	-1.0
Intercosma	805.0	-1.9
Intergamma 1	3312.0	-4.2
Intergamma 5	15426.0	0.5
Iscal	1023.0	0.0
Ispro	3677.0	-0.2
Isracolor	481.0	-0.8
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	135.5	1.1
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	175.5	0.0
Israel Wire and Cables Warrant 3	0.0	0.0
Isralom	1189.0	0.0
Isralom Bond B	257.0	0.0
Isras 1	6057.0	1.0
Isras 5	25908.0	-1.0
Isras Bond A	238.0	-1.2
Isrotel	0.0	0.0
Isrotel Warrant 1	0.0	0.0
JCT	0.0	0.0
JOEL	119.0	3.9
JOEL Bond 1A	227.0	0.0
JOEL Bond 2	127.0	-0.4
JOEL Bond A	226.0	0.0
JOEL Warrant 3	5.2	4.0
Jalora	0.0	0.0
Jalora Bond A	183.5	0.0
Jaysour	147.5	0.0
Jaysour Bond A	115.5	-0.9
Jerusalem Mort	174.0	0.0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 16	189.5	-0.6
Jeunesse	30.2	0.0
Kadmani	175.5	1.2
Kedouri	233.0	0.0
Kahn	1298.0	-0.8
Kalkalit Bond A	92.0	0.0
Kalkalit warrant 2	270.0	-2.2
Kamour	437.0	-0.2
Kamour Bond G	129.0	0.4
Kamour Warrant H	6.1	0.0
Kanicol	17.7	1.7
Kanicol Bond A	63.0	0.0
Kardan 1	349.0	0.0
Katz	126.0	0.0
Katz Bond A	67.0	0.0
Kedem Chemicals	4070.0	10.0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	227.0	0.0
Kenitex	405.0	-1.0
Kesher	796.0	-2.0
Kesher Bond A	147.5	0.0
Keter	810.0	-0.5
Kind	13.0	0.0
Kind Bond A	41.4	0.0
King	400.0	-0.2
Kinneret	181.5	0.0
Kisch Kirur	175.5	0.0
Kishrei Teufa	965.0	5.0
Kital	531.0	0.0
Kital Bond A	119.0	0.0
Kital Bond A	158.5	0.0
Kital Warrant 1	27.3	-0.4
Klein Bond A	0.0	0.0
Kill Ind. 1	0.0	0.0
Kill Ind. 5	7027.0	0.0
Knafeim	0.0	0.0
Koor Warrant 2	0.0	0.0
Kopel	149.5	0.3
Kopel Bond 1	241.0	0.0
LIMS	256.0	0.0
La Nationale Bond A	133.5	0.0
La Nationale Pref.	72.0	-0.7
Lachish	7674.0	1.0
Lamont	746.0	0.0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	3.7	0.0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	59.0	-7.1
Lasers	422.0	-3.2
Laviav	331.0	-3.0
Laznick Bldg	499.0	0.0
Laznick Comm Ctrs	160.0	-3.0
Laznick Commercial Centres Bond A	126.0	-0.4
Laznick Ind Bldgs	361.0	-1.4
Laznick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	137.5	-2.1
Leader Warrant B	184.5	-10.0
Lego	471.0	0.0
Leumi Mortgage Bond 154	136.0	-0.4
Leumi Mortgage Warrant 1	0.0	0.0
Leumi R3	0.0	0.0
Leumi R4	56.5	0.0
Leventhal	386.0	0.0
Levi	723.0	0.0
Levi Bond A	136.5	0.0
Levinstein Bond A	86.5	-1.1
Levinstein Warrant 2	454.0	-3.0
Levinstein	1002.0	-3.5
Libet	431.0	-0.5
Lidan	1497.0	-10.0
Lifshir 1	227.0	-0.4
Lifshir 5	944.0	-1.0
Ligad	788.0	0.0
Ligad Bond 1	154.0	0.0
Lighterage 1	616.0	-2.1
Lipman	3073.0	-1.0
Lipski	2599.0	-2.0
Lipski Bond A	167.0	0.3
Liraz Bond A	148.0	-0.3
Lodzia 1	1586.0	0.0
Lodzia 4	4638.0	-3.3
Luhot Gali	59.0	-1.7
Luhot Gali Bond 1	133.0	0.0
Lumir	3392.0	-1.0
MM Engineering	229.0	0.0
MM Engineering Bond A	129.0	-0.4
MM Engineering Warrant 2	3.0	-46.4
MTI Computers	308.0	-1.9
Ma'ariv	1496.0	-4.8
Ma'ariv Bond A	120.5	0.0
Maaberot	1249.0	0.7
Macpell	1014.0	-1.3
Macpell Bond A	135.0	-0.4
Macpell Bond B	113.5	0.0
Mafil	846.0	0.0
Magam	190.0	-2.8
Magam Bond A	173.5	-0.6
Magam Bond B	125.5	0.8
Magav	394.0	0.0
Magav Warrant 1	24.0	0.0
Magma	51.0	-4.7
Magma Warrant 1	9.0	-7.2
Magor 1	2743.0	-0.3
Magor 5	10919.0	-1.2
Mafal	363.0	0.0
Matal Bond A	214.0	0.0
Mafi	75.0	4.9
Malibu 1	912.0	-2.3
Malibu Bond B	173.0	-0.3
Malte	873.0	0.0
Maman	0.0	0.0
Man	148.0	0.0
Man Bond A	245.0	0.0
Mantur	31.9	-9.9
Marathon	100.0	0.0
Marathon insured	107.0	0.0
Mano Laznick Constr. Bond 1	167.0	-0.3
Mano Laznick Constr. Bond 2	146.5	-0.3
Maritime Bank Bond A	197.5	0.0
Maritime Bank Bond B	141.5	0.0
Maritime Bank Warrant 6	6.8	0.0
Mashav	820.0	0.2
Mashov	113.5	-1.3
Mashov Marketing Warrant 1	21.8	10.1
Matam	1526.0	-1.0
Maxima 1	1086.0	-1.5
Maxima 5	4490.0	-1.5
Mazpak	605.0	-0.5
Med. Hotels	96.0	0.0
Meditechnica	887.0	-5.0
Meditechnica Bond A	134.5	-0.4
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	147.5	-0.3
Megason	57.5	0.0
Mei Eden	0.0	0.0
Meimad	613.0	0.0
Meir Ezra Bond B	246.0	-0.4
Meler	368.0	-2.1
Melissaron	0.0	0.0
Melissaron Warrant 2	0.0	0.0
Mendelson	268.0	0.0
Menofim	59.0	0.0
Menorah Ins. 1	0.0	0.0
Menorah Ins. 5	7017.0	0.0
Mercazit	648.0	-0.5
Mercazit Warrant 2	81.0	-14.7
Merhav	226.0	-3.0
Maytavit	873.0	0.0
Middle East Tube	412.0	-3.1
Middle East Tube Bond A	99.5	-7.4
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	43.4	-5.2
Milomor Bond A	147.0	-1.3
Milomor	0.0	0.0
Mimsar	151.0	0.0
Mini Line	610.0	0.0
Minrav	13549.0	-2.0
Mirage	210.0	1.0
Mirage Bond A	133.0	0.4
Mirage Warrant 1	43.9	0.0
Miromit	60.0	0.0
Mishnael	19.0	0.0
Mishnael Bond B	58.0	0.0
Mishor Bond 2	152.0	0.0
Mishor Hahol	351.0	0.0
Miterani	121.5	-2.8
Mivtach Shamir	962.0	0.0
Mizrahi Inv	0.0	0.0
Modgal	712.0	-3.3
Modi'in	2.8	0.0
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	252.0	-2.3
Molett	714.0	0.0
More Plastic Ind.	251.0	0.0
Moshkovitz	201.0	0.5
Mochkovitz Warrant 2	38.4	0.0
Mula Senter	480.0	2.6
NATSVA BOND A	105.5	0.0
NATSVA REGULAR	0.0	0.0
NMC	382.0	0.0
NYP	911.0	-1.3
Nachshon Fund	50.5	0.0
Naphtha	516.0	0.0
Naphtha Barkan Bond 5	0.0	0.0
Naphtha Oil Exp.	25.9	0.0
Natour	399.0	1.0
Navigator	158.0	0.0
Navigator Bond A	0.0	0.0
Navigator Property	28.2	-3.1
Neca	0.0	0.0
Neca Bond A	0.0	0.0
Nachushan Prop.	233.0	0.4
Nachushan Properties Bond A	135.5	0.0
Negev Ceramics	211.0	-1.9

	LAST	CHANGE*
Nechushtan 1	521.0	0.0
Nechushtan 5	3975.0	-1.2
Neot Aviv	8353.0	-1.3
Nesus	438.0	-1.6
Nave Arbel	83.5	0.0
Nevam Hotels	471.0	0.0
Naviol	715.0	0.0
Nilit	326.0	0.0
Nikuv	1325.0	0.0
Nisco	2006.0	-2.0
Nissen	228.0	0.0
Noga	1556.0	-1.5
Noga Insorens	57.0	0.0
Nordan	15.4	0.0
Nordan Tech.	525.0	-1.3
Norfolk	668.0	-2.1
Norfolk Bond A	144.5	-1.0
Nur	63.0	0.0
Oceans	278.0	0.0
Ocif Bond A	174.5	0.3
Ocif Bond B	172.5	0.0
Ocif Bond C	90.0	0.0
Ocif Warrant 1	0.0	0.0
Ocif Warrant 2	1640.0	-2.3
Ocif Warrant 3	0.0	0.0
Octova	679.0	0.0
Ofek	203.0	0.0
Ofer Bro	7275.0	-0.6
Offis	334.0	-9.0
Ogdan	61.0	0.0
Ohalav	371.0	-2.2
Oil Fields	1.7	0.0
Old-Dok	114.0	0.0
Omni	234.0	0.0
Omnitech	247.0	0.0
Ophir	457.0	0.0
Oppenheimer	97.0	0.0
Opumo	79.0	2.6
Orasys	2844.0	-1.0
Orazk	176.0	0.0
Orazk Bond A	168.0	0.0
Orbit	0.0	0.0
Orda	4523.0	0.0
Orda Bond 1	193.5	0.0
Orev	424.0	0.0
Oneli	147.0	-10.1
Orlite	408.0	-4.9
Ormat Industries Bond D	117.5	0.0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	143.0	0.0
Ortal	220.0	-2.2
Oz	213.0	0.0
PCB	1129.0	-1.0
PCB Warrant 3	5.1	30.8
Pach	0.0	0.0
Packer Steel Warrant 1	0.0	0.0
Pallough	477.0	-1.9
Pama	690.0	0.0
Pamas	2057.0	-2.5
Pan Dor	195.0	2.6
Pardes	928.0	0.0
Pardes Bond A	111.5	0.0
Passport	2888.0	-2.2
Paz Chen	464.0	0.0
Pdan Investment	80.0	0.0
Pereg	84.0	0.0
Phoenix Ins. 5	15888.0	-5.0
Pica Plast	675.0	-1.5
Pinros	128.0	-4.1
Pinros Bond A	137.5	-1.8
Pikid	264.0	-0.4
Plasson	0.0	0.0
Plasto Sac	742.0	-3.3
Plasto Shack Bond A	87.5	0.0
Plasto Shack Warrant 2	161.5	0.0
Plasto Shack Warrant 3	28.0	0.0
Poalim Investments Bond A	134.0	0.0
Point of Sale.	3781.0	0.0
Polak	343.0	0.0
Polgat A	188.5	-5.0
Polgat Bond A	251.0	0.0
Polgat Bond B	167.0	0.3
Polgat Bond C	0.0	0.0
Polygon	210.0	9.9
Polygon Bond 2	208.0	0.0
Poraz	208.0	-4.1
Poraz Warrant 1	50.5	-27.3
Pori	51.5	0.0
Poseidon	93.0	0.0
Pri Haemek	24.3	-0.8
Pri Haemek Bond A	47.7	-0.4
Pri Or	0.0	0.0
Pritzker	292.0	0.0
Pritzker Bond A	147.0	0.0
Profit	352.0	-2.2
Profit Bond A	127.0	0.0
Python	335.0	-0.6
Quality Cap Mills	552.0	0.0
RDC	972.0	-1.5
RDC Bond A	138.5	-0.4
RSL	687.0	-2.7
Rabintex	109.5	0.0
Ram Zur	90.0	2.3
Ramgor 1	250.0	0.0
Ramgor 4	805.0	5.0
Rapak	2760.0	-2.0
Rapak Bond A	155.5	0.3
Rassco	987.0	-2.0
Ratio	1.3	8.3
Ratz	306.0	0.0
Ratz Bond A	133.5	0.0
Rav Car	109.5	2.8
Ravad	184.5	-0.5
Red Sea Hotels	601.0	-2.0
Regency	87.0	0.0
Regency Bond 1	107.0	-0.5
Regent	351.0	-2.0
Regent Bond A	139.5	0.0
Rekah	345.0	0.0
Reshef	49.9	-6.7
Reshef Bond A	0.0	0.0
Reshef Bond B	88.0	0.0
Rimoni	693.0	0.0
Rogozin Bond A	83.0	0.0
Rogozin Warrant A	0.0	0.0
Rogozin Warrant B	367.0	0.0
Romtech	378.0	0.0
Rosebud	108.0	-1.4
Rosental	152.0	0.0
Rotem	509.0	0.0
Rotshtein	145.5	0.3
Rotshtein Bond A	135.0	-1.1
STG	1154.0	-0.8
STG Bond A	99.5	0.0
Sahar Dev.	2399.0	0.0
Sahar Securities	806.0	0.0
Sahar Securities Warrant 1	5.5	-5.8
Sentacol	147.0	-1.3
Sano 1	1679.0	-1.5
Sano 5	8175.0	0.0
Scandia Bond 1	0.0	0.0
Scandia Bond 2	0.0	0.0
Scope	1498.0	-1.0
Sea Trade	599.0	-2.0
Securitas	1222.0	0.0
Securitas Bond A	170.0	0.0
Securitas Warrant 1	0.0	0.0
Sefen	1016.0	-1.0
Senalon	421.0	0.0
Shaked	451.0	-1.5
Shaked Bond A	0.0	0.0
Shamir	333.0	0.0
Shef	384.0	0.0
Shekel	134.5	0.0
Shekel Bond A	145.0	0.0
Shekem Barkan Bond 4	148.5	0.0
Shekem Bond 1	142.0	-0.4
Shekem Warrant 1	2.0	-42.9
Sheleg	90.0	0.0
Shem Tov	291.0	-4.9
Shemen	12187.0	-0.5
Shemen Bond A	157.5	0.0
Shemen Warrant 2	0.0	0.0
Shladot	89.0	0.0
Shlomo Angel	6133.0	0.0
Shmi c2	87.5	0.0
Shmi w2	210.0	-1.9
Shmira	862.0	-2.0
Shmira Bond A	150.0	1.0
Shmura Fund	0.0	0.0
Shnv	545.0	-7.9
Shrang	148.0	0.0
Shulamit	297.0	0.0
Shulamit Bond A	130.5	-8.1
Sinai	407.0	0.0
Sinai Bond A	135.0	0.0
Solel Bone	0.0	0.0
Solel Bone Bond A	106.0	0.0
Solel Bone Warrant A	0.0	0.0
Solf Bone R1	372.0	-7.0
Solog	454.0	-5.0
Solomon	434.0	0.0
Solomon Holdings	737.0	-1.5
South Pipe	470.0	-0.4
Spencrit	294.0	-1.7
Spectronix 1	841.0	-4.7
Sunirost	2774.0	-4.2
Suny Electronics	424.0	0.0
Synopsis	178.0	0.0
Synopsis Bond A	147.5	0.0
Syntec	415.0	0.0
TAP Bond 1	269.0	-1.1
TAT 1	572.0	-0.2
TAT Bond A	235.0	-2.1
TMM	76.0	-0.7
Ta'al	371.0	2.5
Tadbik	343.0	0.0
Tadiran Appl	457.0	2.9
Taham	1106.0	0.0
Tal	120.5	0.0
Tal Bond A	84.0	-1.2
Tal Warrant 2	2.0	0.0
Tambour	0.0	0.0
Tashluz	460.0	0.0
Tashluz Bond A	157.5	0.0
Tashluz Bond B	124.0	0.0
Tashluz Prop	505.0	0.0
Tashluz Warrant 2	21.0	0.0
Taste of Israel	188.5	-0.5
Taya	1028.0	0.0
Taya Comm. 1	307.0	-0.3
Team Computers Bond A	0.0	0.0
Technoplast	380.0	0.3
Technoplast Warrant 2	333.0	0.0
Tedea	2141.0	0.0
Tefahot Preferred	206329.0	-1.0
Telen	3409.0	0.0
Teldor	462.0	-1.1
Telsis	1423.0	-1.0
Tempo	0.0	0.0
Tene	292.0	-3.9
Teuza	156.5	-7.9
Teuza insured	174.0	-0.3
Tibon Veal	188.5	0.0
Tim Warrant 3	577.0	0.0
Tiv	415.0	0.0
Tobias	1962.0	-0.3
Tom	1264.0	-2.3
Topline	490.0	0.0
Topline Bond 2	151.5	-0.7
Topper	36.8	9.9
Topper Bond 1	62.5	0.8
Topper Warrant 2	5.0	0.0
Tosaf Compounds	311.0	-1.6
Trade	297.0	-3.9
Trade Bond A	183.5	0.0
Trend Line	970.0	0.0
Trocadero	78.0	0.0
Trydkal	593.0	1.2
Tsabar	122.0	0.0
Tsarfati	633.0	-2.0
Tsarfati Bond A	135.0	-6.9
Tsur	172.5	0.0
Tsur Bond A	238.0	0.4
Tsur Bond B	105.5	0.5
Tsur Preferred	152.0	0.0
Tuttnauer	1057.0	1.2
Tzmicha	981.0	0.0
Tzmicha Bond A	202.0	6.3
Ulislo	89.0	-1.1
Uniber 1	956.0	0.0
Uniber 5	2061.0	0.0
Unico	4413.0	0.0
Unicorn 1	95.5	0.0
Unicorn Bond 1	218.0	0.0
Unidress	703.0	0.0
United Steel Industries Bond 1	158.0	0.0
Univercol	435.0	0.0
Urdan Warrant 5	187.5	3.6
Urope Israel	1404.0	0.0
Vardinon Bond A	163.0	0.0
Vardinon Convertible Bond AAA	148.0	0.0
Videomatrix	53.0	-0.9

	LAST	CHANGE*
Vilar	455.0	-2.8
Vilar Bond 1	152.0	-0.3
Vilar Warrant 2	0.0	0.0
Vil Food	1141.0	-0.3
Viliger Bond A	140.0	0.0
Vitalgo	437.0	0.0
Vitalgo Bond A	108.5	0.0
Vulcan	357.0	-5.1
Vulcan Bond 1	222.0	6.0
Wolfman 1	613.0	0.0
Wolfman 5	2504.0	-1.8
Woolfson	56149.0	0.0
YDPZ	284.0	0.0
YDPZ Bond A	147.5	0.0
YLR	775.0	0.0
Ya'ara	742.0	0.0
Yaacob	210.0	0.0
Yaad Bond A	166.5	0.5
Yaad Bond B	90.0	0.0
Yaad Industries	358.0	-1.1
Yaad Warrant 3	71.0	0.0
Yad	456.0	0.0
Yamit	235.0	0.0
Yarden	410.0	0.0
Yarden Bond 2	114.0	0.4
Yarden Warrant 3	23.7	-5.2
Yeda	1338.0	-1.0
Yehuda	327.0	0.0
Yesh Gad	38.7	0.0
Yona Bond A	152.0	0.0
Yona Hotels	214.0	0.0
Yozma	437.0	0.0
Yuval	127.0	0.0
Zalmi	549.0	0.0
Zanes Holdings	54.5	0.0
Zol	113.0	0.0
Zehav	265.0	0.0
Zeller Ablagon	824.0	-0.5
Zeller Ablagon Bond A	146.0	0.3
Zeller Ablagon Bond B	127.5	0.0
Zika 1	712.0	3.0
Zika 5	2934.0	-0.5
Zikit 1	4654.0	0.0
Zikit 5	19626.0	0.0
Zincmetal	715.0	0.0
Zion Cables 1	215.0	0.0
Zion Holdings	14507.0	-0.5
Zion Textiles	79.0	0.0
Ziv	210.0	0.0
Zohar	419.0	0.0
Zoko	245.0	-0.8

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

AMEX

	LAST	CHANGE*
Am Israel Paper Mills	41.5	-1
Ampal American Israel	4.9375	-0
Electro Chemical Ind	1.25	+0.1875
Etz Lavud	8.5	+0.25
Etz Lavud Cl A	6.875	-0.125
Integrated Technology	1.3125	-0.0625
Carmel Containers Sys	6.75	-0.25

NASDAQ

	LAST	CHANGE*
ACS Electronics Ltd	4.625	+0.25
Accent Software	0.5625	+0.09375
A.G. Associates	4.5	+0
Aladdin	13.8125	-0.0625
Ampal	14.5625	0
Arel	2.625	+0
Arialy Advertising Ltd	2.125	-0.25
Better Online Solutions	4.625	-0.0625
Bio Technology General	11.375	+0
BVR Technologies	8.875	-0.125
Checkpoint Software	36.375	-1
Cimatron	5.5	+0
Comverse Technology	37.5	+0.75
Crystal Systems Solutions	22.75	+2.125
DSPG Group	21.5	-0.75
DSPT Tech	10	+0
Data Systems Software	4.5	-0.375
ECI Telecom	24.625	+0.25
Edusoft	6.875	+0.25
Electric Fuel	3.3125	-1.0625
Electronics for Imaging	14.625	-0.3125
Elbit Computers	3.625	-0.125
Elron Electronics	14.875	-0.25
Elbit Medical Imaging	6.125	-0.375
Elbit Systems Ltd	12.375	-0.25
Eltek Circuit Boards	1.25	-0.125
Engel General Developers	8.5	+0
ESC Medical Systems Ltd	36.8125	+0.5625
Elbit Vision Systems	11	-0.1875
Eshed Robotec (1982)	0.625	+0
Formula Systems (1985)	28.25	+0.25
Forsoft Ltd	10.5	+1.1875
Galileo	28.75	+0.4375
G.Willi-Food	5.25	0
Gilat Satellite Networks	27.875	+0.875
Genesis Bnd	5.5	+0
Geoteck	1.84375	+0.03125
Healthcare Technologies	0.40625	+0
Home Center	9.625	-0.125
I.C.T.S.	7.75	+0
IIC Industries	42.25	0
I.I.S. Intelligent info	1.21875	-0.09375
Israel Land Develop - ADR	15.75	0
Indigo	4.125	-0.125
ISG Intl Software Group	13	+0.5
Isramco	0.875	-0.03125
Laser Technologies	26.4375	+0.8125
Lan Optics	3.875	+0
Logal	1.0625	-0.3125
Level 8 Systems	12	-1
M-Systems Flash Dsk	3	-0.25
Madge	4.25	-0.25
Magal Security Systems	3.5	+0.1875
Matav	16.75	-0.5
Medis El	5.375	-0.625
Memco	17.5	+0.5
Mer Telemanagement	3.5	-0.5
Mercury	23.75	-0.5625
Magic Software Enterprises	4	-0.25
Netmanage	2.625	+0.0625
New Dimension Software	18.5	+0
Nice Systems	39.25	+0.875
Neuro-Medical Systems	2.625	-0.625
Nur Tecnology	1.8125	+0
Opti Systems Solutions	5.75	-0.375
Orbotech	29.875	+0.125
Orckit	18.75	-0.1875
Oshap Technologies	7.8125	+0.1875
Pharmos	2.03125	+0.09375
Rada Electronics Ind	1.375	+0
Radcom Ltd	6.875	-0.125
RIT Technologies	9.625	-0
RSL Communications	22.25	-0.5
Sciex Corporations	11.125	-0.0625
Silicom	4.125	0
Summit Design	9.3125	-0.3125
Sapiens International	7.5	+0
Scanvec	2.125	+0
Tadiran Telecomm	19.125	-0.0625
Taro Pharmaceuticals Ind	4.625	-0.1875
Tat Technologies	0.75	-0.1875
Technomatix Technologies	29	+0.75
Teva	43.75	+0.6875
Top Image Systems	3.1875	-0.0625
Teledata Communications	19.875	-0.625
Tower Semiconductor	9.625	+0.25
TTI Team Telecom Intl Ltd	5.125	-0.25
TVG Technologies	0.96875	-0.03125
Vocaltec	18.6875	+0.3125
Wiz Tec Solutions	10.875	+0.875
Zag Industries Ltd	8.5	+0.25
Zoran Corporation	13.125	-0.5625

NYSE

	LAST	CHANGE*
Blue Square	12.125	+0.625
D.S.P. Communications	12.1875	-0.0625
Elscint	8.1875	+0.0625
First Israel Fund	12.8125	-0.3125
PEC Israel Economic Corp	21.4375	+0.375
Koor	21.625	+0.625
Simula Inc	15	-0.5
Super-Sol Ltd	13.5	-0.4375
Tadiran	36.9375	-0.0625
Tefron Ltd	21.75	+0.125

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-DEC-97)

LONDON

	LAST	CHANGE*
Batm Advanced	124	+0
Dmatek Ltd	32	+0
Geo Interactive Media	166.5	+0
Pilat	47.5	+0
S.E.A. Multimedia	14.5	+0
Selector	42.5	+0

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-DEC-97)

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

	LAST	CHANGE*
Alza	30.875	+0.8125
AMP Inc	39.5625	-0.5625
AMR Corp	123.625	-1.25
ASA	21.1875	-0.375
Abbott Labs	66.0625	+1.4375
Advanced Micro	18.5625	-0.25
Aetna Life	67.375	-0.5625
Affiliated Publ	23	-1.125
Aflac	50	+0
Ahmanson (HF)	65.75	-0.4375
Air Prods	77.375	+0.375
Alberto-Culv B	31.4375	+0.375
Albertson's	46.125	-0.875
Alcan Aluminum	26.9375	-0.25
Allied Signal	35.75	+0.375
Alcoa	69.9375	+0.1875
Amax	32.375	+0.125
Amerada Hess	51.4375	+0.6875
Amer Brands	24	+0.125
Amer El Power	50.75	-1.25
Amer Express	87.75	+0.8125
Amer Genl Corp	53.375	-0.1875
Amer Greeting	37.875	+1.4375
Amer Home Pr	74.875	+0.75
Amer Int'l	106.375	+1.5
Amer Natl Ins	95.75	-0.25
Amer Power Conv	23.375	-0.5625
Amer Stores	20	+0.0625
Amer T & T	63.9375	+2.625
Ameritech	85.8125	+2.1875
Amotek Inc	25.25	+0.25
Amgen	52.625	+0
Amoco	83.5625	+0.4375
Analog Devices	27.375	+1.3125
Anheuser-Busch	43	+0.9375
Aon Corp	56.5625	+1.4375
Apple Computer	13.3125	-0.375
Applied Magnetics	11.9375	-0.1875
Applied Materials	30.5	+0.5
Archer Daniels	21.5	-0.0625
Armco	4.6875	+0.0625
Armstrong World	74.75	-0.5
Asarco	21.75	-0.3125
Ashland Coal	29.875	-0.4375
Ashland Oil	51.75	+1.5625
Atlantic Richfld	77	+1
Auto Data Pro	56.4375	+1.25
Autodesk	33.3438	+0.15625
Avery Dennison	42.5625	+0.5
Avnet Inc	66.75	+0.375
Avon Products	59	-0.8125
Barnco Corp	10	+0
Baker Hughes	40.25	-0.875
Ball Corp	35.1875	-0.75
Baltimore Gas	32.9375	+0.6875
Banc One Corp	54.5	+0.5
Bandag	55	+0.875
BankAmerica	72.625	-0.875
Bank of Boston	93.625	-0.75
Bank of New Yk	56.75	-1.25
Bankers Trst NY	120.625	+2.75
Barnett Banks	71.1875	+1.375
Battle Mount Gd	5.0625	-0.0625
Bausch & Lomb	39	+0.6875
Baxter Intl	47.6875	-0.1875
Bay Network	23.5625	+0.6875
Becton Dickinson	49.9375	-0.5
Bell Atlantic	90.0625	-0.375
Bell Industries	12.25	-0.75
BellSouth	57.3125	+0.6875
HA Belo Corp	52.6875	-0.0625
Beneficial Corp	80.0625	+0.8125
Bethlehem Steel	8.4375	+0.625
Beverly Enterps	12.5625	+0.0625
Biomet	24	+0.1875
Black & Decker	38.4375	-0.8125
Boeing	48.75	+0.1875
Boise Cascade	29.5	+0
Bowater Inc	43.8125	+1.125
Briggs & Strttn	48.6875	-0.375
Brist Myrs Sqb	91.3375	+0.75
Brit Arws ADR	91.8125	+0.6875
Brit Steel ADR	22.0625	-0.625
Brit Telecom	78.5	+0.3125
Brown Group	13.125	-0.125
Brown & Sharpe	9.6875	-0.0625
Browning Ferris	36.0625	+0.375
Brunswick	28.8125	+0.4375
Burlington Nthn	94.1875	+0.4375
Burlington Res	43.1875	+0.1875
CBS Inc	28.0625	-0.0625
CMS Energy Corp	42	+1
CPC Intern	105.375	+2.375
CSX Corporation	54.6875	+0.8125
Cabot Corp	27.5625	+1.1875
Campbell Soup	56.5	+0.3125
Canadian Pac	25.9375	+0.625
Capital Cts ABC	100.813	-1.1875
Carnival Corp	51.5	+0.75
Carolina Pwr Lt	42.125	+0.8125
Carpenter Tech	48.6875	-0.3125
Caterpillar	48.3125	+0.1875
Center Corp	61.9375	-0.125
Central & SW	27.125	+1.125
Ceridian	46.125	+0.5
Champion Intl	43.75	+0.1875
Chrmg Shoppes	4.625	-0.125
Chase Manhattan	106.813	-1.3125
Chevron Corp	75.1875	+1
Chiquita Brands	15.125	+0.125
Chrysler	34.6875	+0.125
Chubb Corp	77.25	+0.1875
Cisco	54.625	+1.1875
Citicorp	127.188	-1
Clevd Cliffs	45	+1.1875
Clorox	75.1875	-0.6875
Coastal Corp	60.625	+0.75
Coca Cola	66.0625	+0.625
Coca Cola Ent	34	+0.125
Colgate Palmolv	69.1875	+1.0625
Comcast Corp A	32.5	+1.1875
Compaq	54.625	+1.125
Compute Ass Int	52	+2
Computer Sci	83.25	+0
Conagra	33.625	-1.6875
Cons Edison	40.625	+0.5625
Cons Freightwys	38	-0.25
Cons Nat Gas	59.125	+0.25
Cooper Inds	48	-0.4375
Coors (Adolph)	33	+0.25
Corning Inc	36.3125	+0.5625
Crane	42.1875	+1.0625
Crompton Knowles	25.375	+0.875
Crown Cork Seal	49.25	-0.375
Cummins Engine	57.1875	+1.5
Curtiss-Wright	73.375	-0.125
Cypress Semicon	8.9375	+0.5625
Cypress Mineral	15	+0.4375
Cytec Indust	45.5625	+0.375
DQE	33.5625	+0.3125
Dana Corp	45.125	+1
Data General	18.125	+1
Dayton Hudson	65.4375	+0.375
De Beers	20.625	+0.375
Deere	56.75	+1.625
Delm Pwr & L	22.5	+0.625
Dell Computers	81.625	+3.3125
Delta Air Lnes	113.5	-3.3125
Deluxe Corp	34.6875	+0.6875
Detroit Edison	33.375	+0.5
Dial Corp Del	20.6875	+0
Diebold Inc	46.75	-0.5
Digital Equip	37.625	+0.375
Dillard Dep St	34.25	+0.5625
Disney (Walt)	97.375	+1.5625
Dominion Res	42.25	+1.25
Donelley (RR)	36.25	+0.125
Dover Corp	34.375	+0.125
Dow Chemicals	97.3125	+0.6875
Dow Jones	53.625	+0
Dresser	39.375	-0.625
DSC Comm	22.7188	+1.09375
Duke Power	55.5625	+1.5
Dun & Bradst	30.5	+0.125
Du Pont	57.1875	+1.0625
EG & G Corp	19.75	+1.0625
Eastern Ents	43	+1.3125
Eastman Kodak	57.9375	-0.0625
Eaton Corp	88.75	-1.3125
Echlin Inc	35.9375	+0.6875
Emerson Elec	55.875	-0.875
Engelhard Corp	18.125	+0.25
Enron Corp	40.5	+0.375
Ennergy Corp	28.625	+0.75
Enzo Biochem	14.8125	-0.1875
Equifax Inc	33.875	+0.125
Ericsson	34.6875	-1.5625
Ethyl Corp	8.1875	+0.1875
Exide Corp	26.5	+0.4375
Exxon	60.3125	+0.0625
FMC Corp	65.375	+1.6875
FPL Group	59.3125	+1.1875
Fedders Corp	5.8125	-0.125
Federal Exprss	56.5625	+0.1875
Federal Mogul	39.5	+0
Fed Nat Mtge	56.5	+0.4375
Fieldcrest Can	34.625	0
First Chicago	82.875	+0.0625
First Union	50.625	+0.1875
Fruit of the Loom	25.5625	+0.125
Fst Union Rlty	14.3125	+0.0625
Fleet Finl Grp	73.6875	+0.5
Fleetwd Enterp	42.0625	+0.875
Fleming Cos Ok	13.9375	+0.125
Florida Prog	38.375	+0.8125
Fluor Corp	37.75	-1.3125
Food Lion Inc	8.25	-0.09375
Ford Motor	46.25	+0.375
Fortune Brands	36.5	+0.3125
Foster Wheeler	27.875	+0.75
Freeport McMor	32.625	+1.1875
Galoob Toys	9.9375	-0.125
Gateway 2000	1.34375	-0.09375
GATX Corp	71.3125	+2.3125
GTE Corp	51.375	+1.375
Gannett	60.0625	+1.5
Gap Inc Del	53.3125	-0.5625
Gencorp	22.6875	-0.6875
Gen Am Invest	25	+0.0625
Gen Dynamics	84	-0.875
Gen Electric	73.9375	+0.9375
Gen Mills	72.125	-0.25
Gen Motors	59.875	+1.3125
Gen Motors H	36.5	-0.875
Gen Public Util	41.1875	+0.6875
Gen Reinsurnce	208.5	+0.625
Gen Signal	41.375	+0.875
Gen DataComm	4	-0.75
Genuine Parts	33	+0.125
Georgia Pac	60.5	-0.1875
Gillette	98.5	+0.5625
Glaxo ADR	47.5625	+0.9375
Golden W Finl	95	+1.1875
Goodrich (BF)	42	+0.5625
Goodyear Tire	62.375	-0.0625
Grace (W&R)	78.4375	+0.4375
Grainger (WW)	96.125	+0.8125
Grt Atl Pac Tea	28.4375	-0.1875
Grt Central Mine	3.1875	+0.4375
Gulf Canada Rec	6.625	-0.3125
Halliburton	48.25	-1.0625
Hanna (MA)	25.125	+0.125
Harcourt	54.25	-1.4375
Harley Davidson	25.875	-0.3125
Harnischfeger	33.5	+0.6875
Harrah's Ent	18.625	+0.4375
Harris Corp	44	+1
Harsco Corp	40.6875	+0.3125
Hartmarx	7.8125	+0.0625
Hasbro	32.5625	-0.5625
Hecla Mining	4.8125	-0.0625
Heinz (HJ)	50.375	-0.625
Helix Technol	19	+0.75
Hmrch & Payne	63.625	-0.5
Hercules	48.6875	+1.625
Hershey Foods	60.5	+0.5
Hewlett Packard	63.25	+2.125
Hilton Hotels	27.3125	+0.6875
Hirsch Int	20.625	+0.25
Hollinger	14	+0
Home Depot	56.875	-0.625
Homestake	9.375	-0.5625
Honeywell	68.0625	-0.5625
Hormel (Geo)	31.4375	+1.0625
Household Intl	122.625	+1.875
Houston Inds	25.375	+0.625
Humana	19.375	-0.1875
IBM	102.563	+0.4375
Illinova Corp	25.4375	+0.5
Illinois Tool	56.625	+0.125
INCO	17.375	+0.0625
Ingersoll Rand	39.4375	-0.0625
Inland Steel	16.3125	+0.0625
Intel Corp	71.4375	+1.4375
Intergraph	9.34375	+0.28125
Interlake	4.6875	-0.0625
Intl Flav & Fr	49.0625	+0.25
Intl Multifoods	27.625	+0.625
Intl Paper	42.5	-0.125
Interpublic	47.0625	+0.5
ITT Corp	81.0625	-1.4375
Jefferson Pilt	76.25	+1
Johnson & J	66.9375	+0.6875
K Mart	11.5625	+0.375
Kaiser Alum	9.0625	-0.125
Kellogg	49.375	+1
KLA Instruments	39.875	+2.0625
Kennametal	51.75	-0.1875
Kerr-McGee	62.9375	-0.8125
KeyCorp	71.6875	-0.0625
Kimberly-Clark	48.375	+1.0625
King World Prod	57.6875	+0.4375
Knight Ridder	52.125	+1
Kroger	34.3125	+0.3125
LSI Logic	21.375	+0.875
Legget & Platt	41	-0.5
Leucadia Natl	33.5625	+0
Lilly (Eli)	66.8125	+0.4375
Limited Inc	23.8125	-0.125
Linear Technol	57.875	+0.25
Lincoln Nat	75.125	+0.875
Litton	57.1875	-0.75
Lz Claiborne	41.25	+0.375
Lockheed Corp	94.375	+0.0625
Loews Corp	102.75	-0.5
Lone Star	53.3125	+0.75
Long Island Lt	29.1875	+0.3125
Longs Drug Strs	31.375	+1.5625
Loral Corp	20.8125	-0.1875
Louisiana Pacif	19.25	+0.1875
Lowe's Co Inc	46.0625	-1.125
Lucent Tech	76.9375	+0.9375
Lubrizol	35.875	+0.6875
Madge	4.25	-0.25
MCI Commun	43.625	-0.4375
Mallinckrodt	37.1875	+0.125
Manor Care	33.5	-0.625
Mapco Inc	44	-0.1875
Marriott	68.1875	+0.8125
Mrsh & McLn	73.5625	+0.375
Marvel	0.8125	+0
Masco Corp	51	-0.25
Massmutual Corp	48.125	-0.25
Mattel Inc	39	+1.6875
May Dept St	50.5	-1.625
Maytag Corp	36.125	+0.25
McDermott	33.9375	+1.4375
McDonalds	46.375	+0.4375
McGraw Hill	68.9375	-0.8125
McKesson Corp	99.875	+1.125
Mead Corp	28.5	+0.8125
Medtronic	50.0625	+0.0625
Mellon Bk	60.5	+0.5
Mentor Graphics	9.375	+0.125
Mercantile Strs	59.25	+0.625
Merck Inc	105.875	+3.25
Meredith Corp	35.0625	+0.1875
Merrill Lynch	70.4375	+0.5
Micron Technol	26.25	-0.9375
Microsoft Corp	127.063	-1.5
Millipore	35.0625	+0.3125
Mine Safety App	66	+0
Minnesota Mine	84.25	+0.625
Mitchell Energy	27.5	+0.625
Mobil Corp	70.8125	-0.6875
Mobile Telecom	21.625	+0.625
Molex Inc	27.875	+0.625
Monarch Macht	8.125	+0.125
Monsanto	38.8125	-2.5
Morgan (JP)	115.875	-0.125
Morton Intl	33	-0.375
Motorola Inc	57.8125	-0.4375
Murphy Oil	54.125	+0.125
Nacco Inds	107	+3.625
Nalco Chemical	39	+0.0625
Nashua Corp	12.5	+0.25
NationsBank	60	+0.875
Natl City Corp	64.9375	+0.3125
Natl Semi	26.875	+0.5625
Natl Serv Ind	46.375	+1.25
NatWest Bank	101	-3
Navistar Int	24.1875	+0.8125
Netscape	25.5	-2.25
New England El	42.75	+0.75
News Corp	21.1875	+0.1875
NY State El Gas	34.375	+0.125
NY Times	63.1875	+1.8125
Newmont Mining	28.8125	+0.3125
Niag Mohawk	9.8125	-0.0625
Nicor Inc	41.1875	+1.375
Nike Inc	39.9375	-0.1875
NL Industries	12.625	-0.4375
Noble Affil	32.5625	-0.125
Nokia	67.375	-1.8125
Nordstrom	56.1875	+0.4375
Norfolk Southrn	30.6875	+0.4375
Northeast Util	11.8125	+0.0625
Novell	7.46875	-0.0625
Nthn State Pwr	57.1875	+0
Northrop	110.313	+0.375
Norwest Corp	36.75	-0.6875
NSI	2.625	-0.625
Occidental Pet	29.375	+0.1875
Ogden Corp	27.3125	-0.4375
OEA	28.8125	+0.6875
Ohio Casualty	44.75	+0.125
Olin Corp	45.625	-1.1875
Omnicom Group	78.0625	-1.9375
Oneok Inc	39.5	+0.6875
Oracle Systems	21.75	+0.125
Oryx Energy Co	22.875	-0.3125
Oshkosh B'gosh	33.5	+1
Overseas Shp	21.375	+0.625
Owens Corning	34.25	-0.1875
PNC Financial	56	-0.375
PPG Industries	56.0625	+0.1875
Paccar Inc	53.5	-1.375
Pacificorp	25.75	-0.3125
Pac Enterprises	36.5625	+0.625
Pac Gas & Elect	30.4375	-0.4375
Pall Corp	20.875	+0
Parker Drilling	11.25	-0.5625
Parker Hannifin	45	+0.0625
Payless Shoe	65.25	+0
Penney(JC)	58.9375	-1.5625
Pennsyl Pwr Lt	23.3125	+0.8125
Pennzoil	67.0625	+0.75
People's Energy	38.4375	+1.0625
Pepsico	35.125	+0.25
Perkin Elmer	66.3125	-0.3125
Pfizer	74.3125	+1.5625
Pharmacia & Upj	36.625	+0.625
Phelps Dodge	60.9375	-0.0625
Philadel Elec	24.8125	+1
Philip Morris	45	+0.3125
Philips Elec	60.5	+1.5
Philips Pet	47.4375	-0.25
Pioneer Hi Bred	105.625	+1.1875
Pitney Bowes	89.8125	+1.25
Policy Mgt Sys	67.8125	+1.8125
Polycom	5.4375	+0.1875
Polaroid Corp	81.5625	+1.125
Potomac El Pwr	23.125	-0.3125
Procter & Gamble	79.875	+0
Pub Svc Enterpr	30.75	+0.8125
Pug Snd Pwr	29.4375	+0.625
Quaker Oats	54.8125	+1.5625
Qualcom	48.4375	+0.4375
Quanex Corp	27.9375	+0.6875
RJR Nabisco	37.375	+0.8125
Ralston Purina	91.5625	+0.5
Rank Orgnsn ADR	11.125	+0.125
Raychem Corp	41.5	+0.4375
Raytheon	-	-
Reebok Intl	28.5625	-0.0625
Republic NY	112.688	+1.5
Reynolds Reyn A	18.9375	+0.1875
Reynolds Metals	59.6875	+0.9375
Rite Aid Corp	54.6875	-1.0625
Roadway Services	44.9375	+0.3125
Rockwell Intl	51.875	+0.5
Rohm & Haas	90.1875	+0.6875
Rohr Industries	29.0625	+0.4375
Rouse	31	-0.5625
Rowan	27.3125	-2.625
Royal Dutch	53.9375	+0.9375
Rubbermaid	24.125	+0.3125
Ruddick	18.0625	+0.75
Russell Corp	28.25	+0.9375
Ryder System	32.6875	+0.3125
SPS Technology	44.9375	+0.0625
Safeco Corp	48.375	+0.5
Safety-Kleen	27.3125	-0.25
St Paul's Cos	83.4375	+0
San Diego Gas	26.375	+0.4375
Sara Lee Corp	56.6875	+1.375
Schering Plough	59.625	-0.5625
Schlumberger	73.75	-1.0625
Scientif Atlanta	17.1875	+0.4375
Scripps	47.3125	+0.6875
Seagate Tech	19.6875	-0.9375
Seagram	30.5	+0
Sears Roebuck	41.875	-0.1875
Sensormatic Elec	16.25	-0.125
Service Corp I	37.6875	+0.125
Service Master	28.875	+0.0625
Shell Trans	42.8125	-0.0625
Sherwin Wlms	25.9375	-1
Shoney's Inc	3.375	-0.0625
Sigma Aldrich	36.75	-0.1875
Silicon Graphics	12.8125	-0.1875
Skyline Corp	25.5	-0.125
Smith Intl	56.375	-1.75
SmKline Bchm A	51	-0.5625
Snap-On-Tools	43.5625	-0.0625
Sonat	45	+0.1875
Sonoco Prods	33.1875	-0.5625
Sony Corp ADR	86	+0.3125
Southown	57.625	+0.375
Southern Co	24.5625	+0.5625
Sth N. Eng Tel	48.5625	+0.5625
Southw Airlines	25.375	-0.875
Southwestn Bell	78	+0.1875
Spring Inds	50.625	+0.8125
Sprint Corp	57.625	+1
Standard Prods	25.375	+0.75
Stanley Works	44.9375	+0.9375
Stone Container	10.4375	+0.0625
Storage Technol	56.4375	-0.4375
Stratus Comp	35.875	+0.4375
Sun America	1.375	+0
Sun Company	42.9375	+1.0625
Sundstrand	46.25	-0.9375
Sun Microsystms	39.8125	+1.125
Suntrust	71.1875	-0.0625
Supervalu	41.1875	+1.1875
Symantec	23.25	-1.25
Sysco Corp	46.0625	-0.4375
TJX Cos Inc	30.5625	-1.75
TRW Inc	53.4375	+0.0625
Tab Products	12.5	-0.0625
Tandy Corp	37.3125	-0.375
Telecom Corp	27.9375	-0.6875
Telefonos de Mex	52.625	+1.625
Telef De Espana	87.75	-1.1875
Temple Inland	51.3125	+0
Tenneco	38.875	+0.125
Tenet Health	31.75	-0.3125
Teradyne	33.3125	+0.375
Tesoro Pet	15.5	-0.25
Texaco	53.875	+0.4375
Texas Instrmnts	46.125	+0.6875
Texas Utilities	41.5625	+1.1875
Textron	60.0625	+1.125
Thiokol	82.4375	+1.3125
Thomas & Betts	46.0625	+0.25

	LAST	CHANGE*
3Com	32.75	+0.125
Time Warner	61.4375	+0.6875
Times-Mirror	60.8125	+2.125
Timken	34.4375	+0.4375
Torchmark	40.875	+0.75
Toseo Corp	34.9375	+0.4375
Toys R Us	29.0625	+0.8125
Transamerica	107 938	+0.0625
Transco Energy	55.625	+0.125
Travellers Grp	52	+1
Tribune	60 75	+0.5625
Triton Energy	28.875	+0.1875
TWA	10.375	+0.0625
Tyco Labs	42.875	+1.9375
Tyler	5.375	+0
UAL Corp	88	-1.5625
USG Corp	47	-1
UST Inc	36.1875	+0.9375
USX Marathon	31.0625	-0.6875
USX-US Steel	28.5	+0.125
Ultramar Diam	32.5625	-0.9375
Unicom Corp	30	-0.0625
Unilever PLC	32.9375	+0 0625
Unilever NV	59.6875	-0.25
Union Camp	52.4375	+1.5875
Union Carbide	42.3125	-0.625
Union Electric	41.4375	+1.0625
Union Pacific	61.4375	+1.9375
Unisys Corp	12.0625	-0.125
USAIR Group	56.875	-2.25
USF&G Corp	22.125	-0.3125
US Home	36	+1
US Surgical	25.5	+0.375
US Trust	64.125	+1.25
US West	46.6875	+0.75
United Tech	70.25	+0.6875
Unocal Corp	36.25	-0.125
VF Corp	45.25	-2
Valero Energy	31.25	-1
Varian Assoc	49	+0.125
Viacom Inc	38.125	+1.0625
Vishay	22.6875	+1.4375
Vulcan Materials	102.063	+0 875
Wachovia	81.375	+0.5
Walgreen	29.75	-0.25
Wal-Mart Stores	36.125	-0.5
Warner-Lambert	122.5	+2.4375
Wash Gas Light	30.375	+1.3125
Washington Mutu	65.125	+0.375
Washington Post	481	+6.75
Waste Mgmnt Inc	26.375	-0.5
Watkins-Johnson	24.875	+0.5625
Wea Markets	35	+0.0625
Wells Fargo	332.75	-2.25
Wendy's Intl	23.75	+0.4375
Westvaco	31.125	+0.875
Weyerhaeuser	48.1875	+1.5625
Whirlpool	52.6875	-0.375
Whitman	26	+0.3125
Williams Co	51.6875	-0 3125
Winn Dixie Stor	42.625	+0.125
Woolworth	19.875	+0.0625
World Comm	32.1875	-0.875
Worthington Ind	15 3125	+0
Wrigley	79 4375	+2.125
Xerox	69.5	+0.8125
Yellow Freight	23	+1 125
Zenith Electron	6.1875	-0.25
Zero Co	30.6875	-0.5625

LONDON

Allied Domecq	514	+6
BAT Inds	540.5	-7
BT	470	+1.5
BTR	181.5	-2.25
Barclays	1602	-13
Bass	907.5	+6.5
Boots	886	-15
British Airways	556	-1
General Electric	384	-9
Grand Met		
Glaxo	1416	+25
Guiness		
HSBC (75p shs)	1520	+0
ICI	922.5	-7
Land Securities	967	+11.5
Lloyds Bank	736	+8
Marks & Spencer	576	-6
NatWest Bank	1012	+4
Prudential	720	-12
Reuters	693.5	-11
Sainsbury	485	-3.5
Shell Transport	424.5	+5
Unilever	486.25	-3.25

PARIS

Accor	1136	+16
Air Liquide	878	+16
Alcatel Alsthom	738	+9
Euro Disney	7	-0.1
Saint Gobain	822	+12

FRANKFURT

Bayer	60	-0.7
Daimler-Benz	113.3	-3.9
Lufthansa	31.9	+0.4
Mannesmann	879	+4
Metallgesellschaft	31	-0.5

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-DEC-97)

	LAST	CHANGE*

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	3.7956	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.538	0
British Pound (1)	5.8869	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	1.9871	0
French Franc (1)	0.5935	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.706	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.4614	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.467	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.0256	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.0063	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	7819.31	+93.02
DJ Transport	3149.58	+5.78
DJ Utils	267.71	+2.96
DJ Comp	2567.16	+17.15
NYSE Indust	616.34	+3.91
NYSE Transport	451 44	+2.28
NYSE Comp	500.48	+3.09
S&P 100	453.81	+3.28
S&P Spot Index	953.71	+6.93

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5018.2	-2
Tokyo Nikkei	14799.4	-515.4
Singapore all-share index	420.68	-8.07
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	10172.4	-233.4
Israel Index	207.85	+0.42
Paris CAC 40	3869 73	+46.83
DAX	4084.75	-81.49
Madrid	614.94	-14.1
Swiss Bank	2616 99	-45.05
Sydney	2503 4	-24.7
Milan	996.9	-18.72

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6635	-0.0052
Mar.future (CME)	1.656	-0.0074
D-mark: spot	1.7815	+0.0046
Mar future (CME)	0.5643	-0.0022
S-franc: spot	1.4392	+0.0042
Mar.future (CME)	0.7026	-0.002
Yen: spot	130.15	+1.03
Mar.future (CME)	0.00778	-5.4e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.4341	+0.0024
Mar future (CME)	0.6987	-0.0013
AusDlr: spot	0.6519	+0.0003
Mar.future (CME)	0.6523	-0.0009
F-franc: spot	5.962	+0.0154
It Lire: spot	1747	+4.5
Nig: spot	2.0074	+0.0048
AusShlg: spot	12.5254	+0.0802
Rand: spot	4.855	-0.01
ECU: spot	1.1099	-0.004

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (CEC)	1620	-65
Coffee (Mar) (CEC)	157.05	-1.8
Wheat (Mar) (CBOT)	333	-0.75
Soybean (Mar) (CBOT)	681.5	-2.5
Sugar (Mar) (CEC)	12.34	-0.05
Orange juice (Mar)(CEC)	89.85	-1.6
Bonds Mar.future	120.29	+0.04
S and P Mar.future	963.1	+5.6

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Mar) (LCE)	1049	-45
Coffee (Mar) (LCE)	1630	-8
Brent crude oil (Feb)(IPE)	1722	0

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	5.07	+0.01

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Feb)	292.7	+1.5
Silver (Mar)	5.025	-0.03
Platinum (Apr)	350.1	-3.1
Palladium (Mar)	182.05	-2.25
High-grade copper (Mar)	0.8085	-0.0015

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	290.45	+1.2
Gold PM fix	290.45	+1.55
Silver fix	605 5	-3

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market fixings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 22-DEC-97)

TASE drops after losses in Asia

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks fell yesterday following losses on stock markets in Japan and Hong Kong, which stemmed from concern about the collapse of one of Japan's biggest food companies last week.

The Maof Index of 25 stocks lost 0.91 percent to 290.53. The *Mishtanim Index of 100 most-traded stocks slipped 0.88 percent* to 278.24.

The Tel Aviv Continuous Trading Index dropped 0.98 percent to 93.18.

"Everyone saw what happened in East Asia overnight and is concerned about what will happen" on other stock exchanges "as the day progresses," said *Idan Azoulay, a fund manager at* Impact Securities, a unit of Union Bank of Israel.

Jonathan Half, branch director at Oscar Gruss & Son Ltd., said the Tel Aviv market has become "a follower."

Azoulay said the "unclear situation" in Asia has created an atmosphere of "caution" among Tel Aviv investors. He added that the financial crisis in Asia has affected the stock prices of individual Israeli companies with *business in the region, such as network software maker* Electronics for Imaging Inc. and telecommunications equipment provider Orckit Communications Ltd.

Europe

UK stocks were mixed as signs of slowdown in consumer spending depressed retailers, while boosting other stocks which benefit from prospects that interest rates won't soon rise.

"We're not seeing the Christmas boom *[in retail sales]* people were expecting," said Nat Jolowicz, a fund manager at Quilter & Co. Ltd., which manages assets worth 3 billion pounds ($5 billion). That and slower economic growth, "take a little bit of pressure off interest rates."

The UK's benchmark FTSE 100 Index declined 2 points, or 0.04 percent, to 5018.2. Among retailers, Boots Co. Plc dropped 15p to 866, Great Universal Stores Plc fell 14p to 722 and Kingfisher Plc declined 18p to 825. The broader FTSE 250 fell 0.07 percent to 4701.8.

Retailers have been left with 3 billion pounds of unsold stock after slow seasonal sales, according to a report by the Center for Economics and Business Research, cited in *The Independent*.

"It's a late Christmas, that's for sure, but it may yet live up to expectations," said Nick Knight, a strategist at Nomura Research Institute Europe Ltd.

In further evidence of slowing growth, the government cut its estimate of third-quarter growth to 0.8 percent from an earlier estimate of 0.9 percent growth.

"There are earnings implications from weak growth," coupled with this year's appreciation in the pound, Knight said.

Still, "what's bad news for some is good news for others," Jolowicz said. Poor retail sales mean the Bank of England may not raise interest rates early next year, easing the debt burden on many companies and boosting profit.

STOCKS



Maof 290.53 ▼ 0.91%

Dow Jones 7819 ▲ 0.08%

FTSE 5018.2 ▲ 0.04%

Nikkei 14799.4 ▼ 3.37%

Asia

Japanese stocks tumbled, with the benchmark Nikkei 225 index slipping below 15,000 for the first time since July 1995, as investors worried that last week's failure of a major food trader signals continued weakness in the financial system.

The Nikkei 225 fell 515.49 points, or 3.37 percent, to 14,799.40. That's the lowest it's closed since July 4, 1995, and slightly above a post-1980s low of 14,485.41. The Topix index of all shares on the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange declined 37.38 points, or 3.2 percent, to 1130.00.

Toshoku Ltd. filed for court protection from its creditors last Thursday with 639.7 billion yen ($4.95 billion) in debts, making it the country's third-largest bankruptcy.

The company itself was not in financial difficulties, but was pulled down by the bad loans of an affiliate and the refusal of banks to roll over their loans, Toshoku's president said last week.

"Investors are seeing that even companies that are in the black can go bankrupt," said Ryuichi Endo, director of the investment management department at Japan Investment Trust Management Co., which handles 20 billion yen in securities. Toshoku fell 1 yen to 2.

The selling was accelerated as foreign portfolio managers made year-end adjustments and sold off poorly performing Japanese stocks, traders said.

"This is a situation when investors say – *why don't we just cut our losses* – why don't we just get out of Japan," said Robert Sasaki, head of the quantitative strategy group at Jardine Fleming Securities (Asia) Ltd.

(Bloomberg)

New York

NEW YORK (Reuters) – US stocks rose on yesterday as Wall Street geared up for the traditional "Santa Claus rally" and as tax-related selling which buffeted the market last week finally slackened.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 63.02 points at 7,819.31. In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines by a 16-12 margin on active volume of more than 535 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange. The Nasdaq composite index ended up 7.30 points at 1,532.04.

"A lot of people are betting on a year-end rally," said Oded Levy, head of trading at Genesis Merchant Group. "And most of the tax-related selling that hurt small-cap and technology stocks is over, so there are some good values out there."

The Santa rally usually occurs in the last five trading days of the year and the first two days of January. It produces a gain of some 1.72 percent on average, according to market historian Yale Hirsch, of the Hirsch Organization.

A heavy wave of merger deals helped jump-start the Dow, which lost 90 points Friday. The blue-chip index roared to a gain of nearly 90 points in early trading, but the rally fizzled and the Dow slipped into the red before mounting another rally to its closing levels.

Yen declines on concern about Asian economies

The dollar gained against the yen yesterday as tumbling Japanese stocks and more signs of trouble in Asia drove international investors to US financial assets. The dollar rose against the deutschemark as price reports showed little sign of rising inflation in Germany, suggesting the Bundesbank won't raise interest rates any time soon.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index dropped below 15,000 for the first time since July 1995 on concern that more companies will go under. Last week, food company Toshoku Ltd. became the latest in a series of failures and the country's third largest bankruptcy.

Also, Moody's Investors Service cut the foreign currency credit ratings of Korea, Indonesia and Thailand to below investment grade, souring investors' on the region and depressing the yen, traders said.

"People are looking to the US bond market as a safe haven for yearend," said Rick Porter, manager of foreign exchange sales at Kredietbank. "That's benefiting the dollar in a flight to quality."

The dollar rose to 130.32 yen from 129.40 yen Friday in New York. It rose to 1.7810 marks from 1.7756 marks.

Traders and economists say the persistent financial problems of Japan and its Asian neighbors will hurt the yen in coming months. Porter sees the dollar rising as high as 140 yen in the first quarter of next year.

Traders were also encouraged to push the dollar higher by the lack of action from Japanese officials to stem the dollar's gains. After speculation the Bank of Japan sold dollars for three straight days last week, traders said they saw no evidence of the central bank in the market yesterday.

Last week's action suggests Japanese officials will step in if there are any sharp moves in the yen, said Brian Hilliard, chief economist for fixed income at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull.

Pessimism about Japan's economy increased after the International Monetary Fund lowered its forecast for growth in Japan next year by 1 percentage point from its forecast a year ago. The IMF cited spillover from economic and financial turmoil elsewhere in Asia, as well as weakness in Japan's financial sector and anemic domestic demand. Toshoku's failure last week reinforced those concerns.

"We're seeing the forces of concern shifting towards issues of credit availability," said Henry Willmore, senior economist at Barclays Capital.

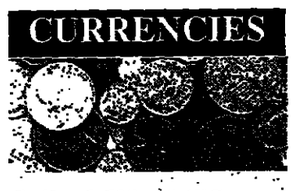
The South Korean won fell after Moody's cut Korea's rating, plunging 8.6 percent to 1,684 to the dollar. The won has lost nearly half its value this year.

Weakness in South Korea hurts Japan as the two nations are major trading partners. A weaker won also makes Korean exports cheaper, eroding Japan's competitiveness in the region. The downgrades to Thailand's and Indonesia's debt also fueled concern about stability and growth prospects in the region in general and in Japan, the world's second largest economy.

"With the Moody's downgrades there is more uncertainty about Japanese growth," said Hilliard at SGST.

Japan's leading Liberal Democratic Party last week approved a plan to cut $15.9 billion from income taxes as part of a package to salvage the economy. That followed a plan announced earlier this month to raise 10 trillion yen from government bond sales to help stabilize Japan's faltering financial system. (Bloomberg)

CURRENCIES



Dollar 3.538 ▲ 0.17%

Basket 3.7958 ▼ 0.07%

Mark 1.9871 ▼ 0.49%

Sterling 5.8869 ▲ 0.09%

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Gold rises on soaring demand

Precious metals

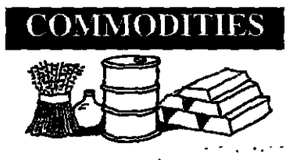
Gold climbed as rising seasonal demand for jewelry, particularly from India, helped prevent a further slide in the precious metal. While gold loses status as the linchpin of the financial system, with investors seeking better returns from other assets such as government bonds, the metal is still popular in Asia at a time of year when demand is seasonally strong. In India, the world's largest gold consumer, jewelers typically buy gold between October and January ahead of the wedding season, while Chinese jewelers buy ahead of Chinese New Year celebrations. Gold for immediate delivery rose $3 to $291.05 an ounce.

Oil

Crude oil fell as traders bet Iraq will resume oil sales in the next two weeks, after the country presented a food distribution plan to the United Nations during the weekend. That will swell global oil supplies by about 1 percent in January, the same time as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries starts pumping 10% more oil. Traders expect the extra oil to combine and form a glut of crude on world markets.

February Brent crude oil futures declined 13 cents to $17.40 a barrel.

COMMODITIES



Gold $291.45 ▲ 2.4%

Crude Oil $17.39 ▼ 0.14

CRB 243.87 ▼ 1.32%

Others

Coffee fell as increasing sales of coffee from this year's harvests in Central America boosted stockpiles of higher-grade arabica beans. Central American coffee exports have increased this month after heavy rain in October and November delayed shipments of arabica coffee beans. Increasing arrivals of Central American beans have been reflected in rising stockpiles in US exchange warehouses which are at their highest level for three months.

Coffee for March delivery fell $34 to $1,606 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange.

Zinc fell. Asian demand for base metals, is set to slump by about 3-5 percent next year as the mounting financial crisis in East Asia slashes economic growth, Macquarie Equities Ltd. warned in a report on Friday. A combination of lower currencies, higher interest rates and stern medicine prescribed for governments in South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia by the International Monetary Fund is set to slash demand for many products containing metals, including cars, home appliances and building materials.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds rise as Asian woes increase allure

US bonds rose for a third day, driving yields to the lowest in more than four years, as continuing financial turmoil in Asia kept up demand for Treasuries as a safe investment.

"The market will continue to trade off of Asia," said John Burgess, who helps oversee some $70 billion of fixed-income securities at Bankers Trust Global Investment Management in New York.

The benchmark 30-year bond rose 11/32, or $3.44 per $1,000 bond, to 103 4/32, driving its yield down 2 basis points to 5.90 percent, the lowest since October 20, 1993. The yield on the two- year climbed 3 basis points to 5.68%.

Yesterday, Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut the foreign currency debt ratings of Indonesia, Korea, and Thailand to below investment grade, or "junk" status. A string of Korea's largest companies, including Samsung Electronics Co., were cut to junk by Standard & Poor's Corp. This led to further declines in the region's leading stock markets and raised expectations that the turmoil might help slow the US economy, helping to keep a lid on inflation, which eats into bonds fixed payments, investors said.

Bonds pared gains of as much as 5/8 as US stocks rebounded, reducing the allure of Treasuries as a safe alternative for stock investors. The rebound in stocks, combined with the government's planned sale of $26 billion worth of two- and five-year notes, may limit gains this week, traders said.

Wall Street firms required to bid on new Treasury securities at auction typically drive yields up before an auction to help drum up demand.

The yield on the two-year climbed 4 basis points to 5.69%, while the new two-year notes yielded 5.68% in when-issued trading, which occurs before they're sold.

Even so, the allure of Treasuries combined with increased demand from many money managers still looking to pare their holdings of stocks and increase their holdings of bonds, should make it easy for the Treasury to find buyers for its new securities, traders said.

Burgess of Bankers Trust predicts yields on benchmark 30-year bonds will fall to as low as 5.75% in the next couple of weeks, which would set a record low for yields since the government began regular 30-year Treasury auctions in 1977. He said he's lately been buying certain corporate bonds, including debt of real estate investment trusts and industrial firms in the expectation differences in yield, or spreads, between these bonds and benchmark Treasuries will narrow in January after widening recently.

Already, the yield on the 30-year Treasury – the bellwether for bond markets worldwide – has fallen more than 50 basis points in the past two months as stocks in Asia and elsewhere fell and expectations for slower growth next year in the US mounted. Some analysts see the Asian crisis shaving a half a percentage point or more off US economic growth next year. Others say the impact of slumping Asian markets on worldwide economic growth next year may be underestimated.

(Bloomberg)

BONDS



US 30 -year T-bill yield

5.90 ▼ 0.02

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.11.97)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	5.000	5.000	5.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.625	5.750	6.000
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.250	2.375	2.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.625	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.12.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.7673	3.8281	—	—	3.7958
U.S. dollar	3.5102	3.5669	3.45	3.62	3.5380
German mark	1.9712	2.0030	1.93	2.04	1.9871
Pound sterling	5.8431	5.9374	5.74	6.02	5.8869
French franc	0.5890	0.5986	0.57	0.61	0.5935
Japanese yen (100)	2.6888	2.7322	2.64	2.78	2.7063
Dutch florin	1.7486	1.7779	1.71	1.81	1.7632
Swiss franc	2.4435	2.4830	2.40	2.52	2.4614
Swedish krona	0.4503	0.4576	0.44	0.47	0.4539
Norwegian krone	0.4814	0.4892	0.47	0.50	0.4852
Danish krone	0.5173	0.5257	0.50	0.54	0.5214
Finnish mark	0.6519	0.6625	0.64	0.68	0.6568
Canadian dollar	2.4474	2.4869	2.40	2.53	2.4670
Australian dollar	2.2864	2.3233	2.24	2.36	2.3041
S. African rand	0.7221	0.7338	0.65	0.74	0.7278
Belgian franc (10)	0.9554	0.9709	0.93	0.99	0.9630
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8024	2.8477	2.75	2.89	2.8244
Italian lira (1000)	2.0098	2.0423	1.97	2.08	2.0256
Jordanian dinar	4.9474	5.0272	4.88	5.22	5.0063
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0900	1.00	1.09	1.0083
ECU	3.6997	3.9626	—	—	3.9295
Irish punt	5.0996	5.1819	5.01	5.26	5.1404
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3297	2.3673	2.28	2.41	2.3462

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Tel Aviv: Superpharm Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730. Till 1 a.m. Wednesday: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvirol, 546-2040. Till *midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40* Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.

Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Haragil, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava, 767-0908.

Netanya: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 15 Smilansky, 860-5204.

Haifa: Habankim, 5, Habankim, 851-3005.

Krayot area: Neveh Haim, 77 Moshe Sharett, Kiryat Haim, 872-6002.

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Netanya: Laniado.

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FIRE	102
FIRST AID	101

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Ashkelon 6551332	Nahariya* 9912333
Beersheba* 6274767	Netanya* 8604444
Bet Shemesh 9523133	Petah Tikva* 9311111
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Jerusalem* 6525133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
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Hotline for English-speakers – Crisis counseling and referrals, all ages, all problems. (02) 654-1111, toll-free 1-800-654-111.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.

The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon Lezion 956-6661/2, Haifa 867-2222, Beersheba 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association support service, 02-624-7676.

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

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HAIFA
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Klinsmann returns to Spurs

LONDON (AP) — Juergen Klinsmann returned to Tottenham yesterday to help the ailing English club avoid relegation from the Premier League.

The 33-year-old German striker, who has had a mediocre season with Italy's Sampdoria, signed a six-month contract until the end of this season with an option to extend it into the next one.

"He has seen we are in trouble, and the opportunity has come up for him to help us out for a few months," said Spurs chairman Alan Sugar. "And we have grabbed it."

Sugar also announced that former manager David Pleat had rejoined the club as director of football.

Klinsmann first joined Tottenham from French club Monaco in 1994 when Osvaldo Ardiles was the Spurs manager. He had a tremendous season, scoring 29 league and cup goals and being named Player of the Year by English soccer writers.

But Klinsmann had an escape clause in his two-year contract and infuriated Sugar by deciding to leave after only one season.

He returned to Germany and played for Bayern Munich before moving to Sampdoria in July this year.

"Alan Sugar asked me if there was a chance of helping them out," Klinsmann said on his return to White Hart Lane. "I had to think about it for a couple of days — it was really quick — and then I said 'OK, let's do it.' I had a fantastic year the season I was here and was very, very comfortable because people made it very comfortable for me. That is something you don't forget. Most of the players I still know and I cannot wait to see them. I am very happy to be here again."

The feeling in Germany is that Klinsmann's move to Tottenham is his last chance of guaranteeing a place on the national team for next year's World Cup. Klinsmann has been Germany's captain.

With Spurs struggling near the foot of the Premier League standings, Klinsmann will walk straight into the starting lineup whereas, at Sampdoria, he spent a lot of time on the bench.

Initial reports said Klinsmann was moving to Tottenham on loan. But Spurs have paid £175,000 to the Italian club and he is no longer a Sampdoria player.



BACK IN THE FOLD – Juergen Klinsmann, shown here with Bayern Munich, returns to White Hart Lane. (Reuters)

Klinsmann revealed that he had problems with Sampdoria coach Vujadin Boskov, who rejoined the club only last month.

"Two weeks ago, against my old club Inter Milan, the coach decided he wanted to play all three strikers," he said. "Then, the night before the game, he said on television that I would come on in the second half.

"This was very negative because if a coach decides to have ideas he has to tell me that to his face."

Sugar is counting on Klinsmann to help Tottenham climb out of the relegation zone. Spurs face Aston Villa on Friday followed by a game against north London neighbor Arsenal on Sunday.

Despite Saturday's 3-0 win over last place Barnsley, Spurs are second from last with only 19 points at the midway point of the season. When Klinsmann left at the end of the 1994-95 season, the team finished seventh.

Pleat, who was manager of Spurs for one season, 1986-87, was fired by Sheffield Wednesday last month after two years in charge.

Tottenham's current manager is Switzerland's Christian Gross, who took over last month after the resignation of Gerry Francis.

Barnsley defender banned for amphetamine use

Dean Jones, the first Premier League player to test positive for drugs, was banned yesterday from playing for three months.

The 20-year-old Barnsley defender went before a Football Association disciplinary committee after testing positive for amphetamines during a random visit by F.A. officials.

Jones took the drug in a nightclub October 26 and said it was merely to keep him awake, not to enhance his performance.

"The FA take a very serious view of this sort of thing," said F.A. spokesman Steve Double. The ban runs from November 17, when the test results became known, until February.

Should he test positive again, he will be banned for life.

Sampras, Hingis ruled the roost in '97

NEW YORK (AP) – Pete Sampras defended his turf and Martina Hingis claimed her own in 1997, but encroaching on each were players who rose from obscurity to Grand Slam prominence.

"Guuu-ga, Guuu-ga," the crowd bellowed at the French Open for champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

Women wolf-whistled at Australian Patrick Rafter on his way to the US Open title against Britain's new ace, Canadian export Greg Rusedski.

Iva Majoli of Croatia turned heads in winning the women's trophy at the French Open, the only major to elude Hingis, and bead-bedecked Venus Williams shook up the sport with her sudden arrival in the US Open final.

Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman danced to the delight of his countrymen as he led a romp over the US in the Davis Cup final.

The mix of new and established players among the ATP and WTA top 10 gave the sport a needed boost while Andre Agassi stayed away most of the year on an extended honeymoon.

Sampras took advantage of Agassi's absence from the Australian Open to win a ninth Grand Slam title, and six months later won No. 10 with his fourth Wimbledon.

In winning six other tournaments, the 25-year-old Sampras became the only player in the Open era besides Jimmy Connors (1974-78) to finish No. 1 for five consecutive years.



Martina Hingis (Reuters)

But neither Sampras nor Hingis have won the French Open.

Fate, in the form of a balky horse, intruded and threw Hingis for a five-week fall. That's how long it took her to recover from arthroscopic knee surgery and return to play in Paris. That she reached the final after a dramatic duel against Monica Seles showed the mettle that underlies the cleverness, swiftness and efficiency of her game.

Hingis won 75 of 80 matches during the year, captured 12 titles and earned $3.4m. She also signed a $10m, five-year sportswear deal with Sergio Tacchini. Not bad for a 17-year-old.

Yet, Hingis' success was always shadowed by the absence of competition from Steffi Graf, who missed most of the year and three of the majors while recovering from knee surgery.

Although Hingis outshone everyone, other teenagers showed promise. Venus Williams improved with every match at the US Open before getting drubbed in her first major final. Anna Kournikova displayed power and a knack for playing her way out of trouble.

Mirjana Lucic, 15, played impressively with a game that seems to have everything right now except experience.

With those players developing and Graf coming back, Hingis may be hard-pressed to come up with a year in 1998 like she had in 1997.

Newcastle opt to expand stadium

LONDON (Reuters) — Premier League soccer club Newcastle United confirmed yesterday they would expand their existing ground rather than fight protests against a plan to build a new stadium on one of the country's oldest parks.

Newcastle, beaten 1-0 by English champions Manchester United on Sunday, said they expected to receive local planning approval for a £42 million extension to their St. James' Park ground in Newcastle upon Tyne, northeast England.

The club, one of Britain's growing band of stock market listed soccer teams, had originally planned to spend about £90m to build a 55,000-seat stadium on Leazes Park, Newcastle's oldest common.

But that plan provoked a storm of protest, including a petition with 36,000 signatures and over 1,000 letters of complaint from groups such as English Heritage, the Victorian Society and the Royal Institute of British Architects.

As a result, Newcastle effectively abandoned plans for a new stadium and said they would make do with the expansion, which will increase stadium capacity to 51,000 from 36,800.

"This in fact is a faster and more cost-effective solution," chairman Sir Terence Harrison said.

"Although we did our best to alleviate what the local populace believe are environmental problems, there's been a strong swell of opinion locally that really held the project up," he said.

Newcastle, runners-up in the Premier League last season, have made only a modest start this year.

Sunday's defeat against Manchester United left Newcastle stuck in mid-table, the latest disappointment in a lackluster season in which they have also been eliminated from European competition.

India beat Sri Lanka in one-day cricket

GAUHATI, India (AP) — Led by a masterly 82 not out by skipper Sachin Tendulkar, India scored a morale-boosting seven wicket victory over world champions Sri Lanka in the first one-day international yesterday.

After restricting Sri Lanka for 172 for nine in the allotted 45 overs, Tendulkar took charge of the innings and scored 82 off 86 deliveries, inclusive of six fours.

Tendulkar and Mohammed Azharuddin put on 79 runs for the unbeaten fourth wicket partnership. India went one-up in three-match series.

Yesterday's win should boost confidence, especially after their disastrous tour of Sharjah where they lost to England, Pakistan and the West Indies.

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Kemp lifts Cavaliers past Jazz; Walker hot in Celtics' win

CLEVELAND (AP) — Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 11 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Utah Jazz 106-101 Sunday night.

Kemp played well down the stretch after getting knocked down by Karl Malone during a battle for a rebound early in the fourth quarter. Malone's elbow hit Kemp in the face, and the Cleveland forward fell to the court in pain.

No foul was called, and Kemp returned to the game about three minutes later.

Three rookies had strong games for Cleveland. Derek Anderson scored 23 points, including 16-for-16 from the free throw line.

Point guard Brevin Knight had 15 points and seven assists, while Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Malone led Utah with 24 point and 13 rebounds.

Celtics 99, Clippers 77

Antoine Walker scored 23 points, including a key 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter, as Boston won at home.

Walker's 3-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer gave Boston a 66-64 lead and triggered a a 32-10 run that broke the game open.

The Clippers scored only 13 points in the final quarter.

Walker also grabbed 15 rebounds, but shot only 8-of-25 from the field.

Dana Barros scored 17 points for Boston, which reached .500 (12-12) for the first time since Dec. 22, 1995, when it had the same record.

Utah	23	22	30	26—101
Cleveland	16	29	39	31—106

UTAH (101) Keefe 7-14 2-4 16, Malone 8-17 3-10 24, Carr 5-6 0-0 10, Stockton 4-8 2-4 11, Hornacek 4-11 0-0 9, Eisley 2-4 1-2 5, Foster 1-3 0-0 2, S.Anderson 2-3 5-5 9, Russell 5-10 2-2 13, Ostertag 1-1 0-2 2. Totals 39-79 20-29 101.

CLEVELAND (106) Henderson 2-7 0-0 4, Kemp 7-13 10-14 24, Ilgauskas 6-9 4-6 16, Knight 4-9 7-9 15, Person 5-15 0-0 11, D.Anderson 3-6 16-16 23, Ferry 2-8 2-2 7, Poisepenko 3-5 0-0 6, Scott 0-0 0-0 0, Brooks 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 32-73 39-47 106.

Fouled out—Carr. Rebounds—Utah 52 (Malone 13), Cleveland 46 (Kemp 11). Assists—Utah 28 (Stockton, Hornacek 6), Cleveland 21 (Knight 7). Total fouls—Utah 30, Cleveland 23. Technicals—Hornacek, Knight. A—18,178

L.A. Clippers	20	26	18	13—77
Boston	19	27	20	33—99

L.A. CLIPPERS (77) Murray 2-7 5-6 9, Wright 4-11 6-8 14, Vrankovic 0-0 0-0 0, Martin 1-3 3-5 5, Barry 4-12 1-2 10, Rd.Rogers 6-13 3-3 20, Taylor 3-5 0-0 6, Richardson 4-7 0-0 8, Piatkowski 1-5 0-0 2, Closs 1-5 1-2 3, Robinson 0-3 0-0 0, Collins 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 28-74 19-26 77.

BOSTON (99) McCarty 3-8 3-5 10, Walker 8-25 6-6 23, DeGlercq 2-5 0-2 4, Barros 7-13 2-2 17, Bowen 4-7 0-2 9, Billups 5-9 1-1 11, Mercer 6-12 2-2 14, Thomas 2-6 0-0 4, Minor 2-2 0-0 4, Ry.Rogers 1-2 1-2 3, Brown 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-89 15-23 99.

Fouled out—Billups. Rebounds—Los Angeles 57 (Wright 19), Boston 53 (Walker 15). Assists—Los Angeles 20 (Piatkowski 5), Boston 26 (Walker 5). Total fouls—Los Angeles 18, Boston 23. Technicals—Walker, Boston illegal defense. A—17,047.

Portland	25	18	25	18—86
Vancouver	14	22	26	26—88

PORTLAND (86) Wallace 6-11 2-4 14, Grant 5-9 2-2 12, Sabonis 5-11 6-8 18, Williams 6-8 0-0 12, Rider 7-21 3-3 19, Trent 3-5 0-1 6, Lister 0-1 0-0 0, Brunson 0-1 0-0 0, Augmon 1-5 2-2 4, Wingfield 0-3 1-2 1. Anderson 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 33-80 16-22 86.

VANCOUVER (88) Abdur-Rahim 9-20 9-15 28, Massenburg 0-1 1-2 1, Reeves 5-10 0-0 12, Mack 3-8 0-0 6, Daniels 4-15 5-6 14, Chilcutt 1-3 2-4 4, Edwards 5-7 4-6 15, Lynch 1-4 0-0 2, Robinson 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 31-72 21-33 88.

Fouled out—Wallace, Reeves. Rebounds—Portland 51 (Grant 9), Vancouver 55 (Abdur-Rahim 14). Assists—Portland 21 (Sabonis 6), Vancouver 18 (Daniels 8). Total fouls—Portland 29, Vancouver 18. Technicals—Grant 2, Rider, Reeves, Edwards. Ejection—Grant. A—15,174

Grizzlies 88, Trail Blazers 86

Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 9 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as Vancouver snapped a three-game losing streak.

Abdur-Rahim, who went 2-for-10 from the field in the first half, took the ball inside at every opportunity in the fourth quarter as Portland's big men got into foul trouble. He finished 9-of-20 from the floor and added 14 rebounds.

Isaiah Rider had 19 points and Arvydas Sabonis 18 for Portland, which made just 6-of-22 shots from the field in the final period.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	17	8	.680	—
Orlando	16	10	.615	1½
New York	15	11	.577	2½
New Jersey	13	11	.542	3½
Boston	12	12	.500	4½
Washington	13	14	.481	5
Philadelphia	6	18	.250	10½
Central Division				
Atlanta	19	7	.731	—
Indiana	17	8	.680	1½
Chicago	16	9	.640	2½
Cleveland	16	9	.640	2½
Charlotte	15	9	.625	3
Milwaukee	12	13	.480	6½
Detroit	12	15	.444	7½
Toronto	3	23	.115	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	14	8	.636	—
San Antonio	15	10	.600	½
Utah	15	10	.600	½
Minnesota	11	13	.458	4
Vancouver	10	17	.370	6½
Dallas	5	20	.200	10½
Denver	2	22	.083	13
Pacific Division				
Seattle	21	5	.808	—
LA Lakers	20	6	.769	1
Phoenix	15	8	.652	4½
Portland	14	10	.583	6
Sacramento	9	17	.346	12
Golden State	5	18	.217	14½
LA Clippers	5	22	.185	16½



ROAD BLOCK – Grizzlies' Antonio Daniels is stopped by Portland's Alvin Williams in second-quarter action. Vancouver edged the Trail Blazers 88-86. (Reuters)

Getting to be a Hasek

Sabres shut out Rangers behind Hasek's 5th shutout in 16 games.

NEW YORK (AP) — Dominik Hasek continued his recent shutout surge, making 33 saves to lead the Buffalo Sabres over the New York Rangers 2-0 Sunday night.

Hasek, who has five shutouts in his last 16 games, was especially sharp in the second period when the Rangers outshot the Sabres 16-7. Two of Hasek's saves came on point-blank shots by Wayne Gretzky on a breakaway.

Sharks 4, Mighty Ducks 2

John MacLean scored twice and Jeff Friesen had three assists, leading San Jose to a road win in Sunday's only other scheduled game.

Buffalo	1	1	0	2
N.Y. Rangers	0	0	0	0

First Period—1, Buffalo, Setan 15 (Holzinger, Woolley), 18:15 (pp). Second Period—2, Buffalo, Peca 7 (Ward, Dawe), 9:02. Third Period—None. Goalies—Buffalo, Hasek. New York, Richter. A—18,20

San Jose	2	2	0	4
Anaheim	1	1	0	2

First Period—1, San Jose, Craven 8 (Iafrate), 1:44 (sh). 2, Anaheim, Selanne 27 (Kariya, Deigneault), 2:30. 3, San Jose, MacLean 4 (Houlder, Friesen), 10:48 (pp). Second Period—4, San Jose, MacLean 5 (Houlder, Friesen), 10:51. 5, Anaheim, Selanne 28 (Kariya, Ruzicka), 11:02. 6, San Jose, Regnaesson 1 (Friesen, Ricci), 15:12 (pp). Third Period—None. Goalies—San Jose, Vernon. Anaheim, Hebert. A—17,174.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	23	10	1	47	106	67
Philadelphia	20	9	7	47	101	78
Washington	16	13	7	39	103	98
N.Y. Islanders	15	15	5	35	97	92
N.Y. Rangers	10	16	12	32	96	105
Florida	12	19	5	29	88	108
Tampa Bay	7	21	6	20	62	105
Northeast Division						
Pittsburgh	18	11	8	44	100	88
Montreal	19	14	4	42	107	90
Boston	16	14	6	38	91	92
Ottawa	15	17	4	34	88	86
Carolina	13	18	5	31	92	100
Buffalo	12	16	6	30	83	93

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	24	9	4	52	118	77
Detroit	20	9	7	47	118	91
St. Louis	21	12	4	46	109	86
Phoenix	14	16	6	34	97	102
Toronto	12	17	5	29	78	93
Chicago	11	17	7	29	77	86
Pacific Division						
Colorado	18	8	11	47	110	93
Los Angeles	14	14	6	34	101	97
San Jose	14	18	4	32	91	100
Anaheim	12	18	6	30	82	111
Edmonton	11	17	8	30	83	103
Vancouver	11	20	5	27	103	122
Calgary	10	20	7	27	93	111

NFL box scores

Baltimore	0	0	7	7—14
Cincinnati	7	0	3	8—18

First Quarter: Cin—Battaglia 8 pass from Esiason (Pelfrey kick), 10:10. Third Quarter: Bal—Alexander 63 pass from Zeier (Stover kick), 10:02. Cin—FG Pelfrey 44, 6:51. Fourth Quarter: Cin—Scott 77 pass from Esiason (kick failed), 3:41. Bal—Green 12 pass from Zeier (Stover kick), 1:40. A—60,917.

RUSHING—Baltimore, Lewis 1-24, Morris 13-22, Zeier 2-8, Byner 1-(minus 1), Cincinnati, Dillon 24-80, Carter 1-7, Milne 1-0, Esiason 3-(minus 2).

PASSING—Baltimore, Zeier 28-41-0-346. Cincinnati, Esiason 21-34-0-254.

RECEIVING—Baltimore, Jackson 7-94, Green 7-82, Alexander 5-111, Morris 5-25, Lewis 3-48, Byner 1-9. Cincinnati, Scott 6-129, Dunn 5-36, Dillon 3-15, Battaglia 2-42, Carter 2-8, Hundon 1-12, Milne 1-7, McGee 1-5.

MISSED FIELD GOAL—Baltimore, Stover 44 (WR).

Chicago	0	7	0	8—15
Tampa Bay	14	7	10	0—31

First Quarter: TB—Diller 7 run (Husted kick), 2:09. TB—K.Williams 61 punt return (Husted kick), :00. Second Quarter: Chi—Autry 3 run (Jaeger kick), 9:52. TB—K.Williams 7 pass from Diller (Husted kick), :11. Third Quarter: TB—FG Husted 20, 8:16. TB—Rhett 5 run (Husted kick), 3:01. Fourth Quarter: Chi—Miller 1 run (Miller run), 12:53. A—70,930.

RUSHING—Chicago, Autry 16-45, Tn.Carter 2-25, Hicks 2-9, Miller 4-8, Harmon 2-6, Kramer 1-(minus 1). Tampa Bay, Dunn 16-119, Anthony 1-23, Rhett 6-20, Alstott 5-12, Diller 1-7, Ellison 1-5, Walsh 3-(minus 3).

PASSING—Chicago, Kramer 12-19-1-82, Miller 6-10-1-39. Tampa Bay, Diller 10-18-0-84, Walsh 1-1-0-0.

RECEIVING—Chicago, Proehl 4-41, Conway 2-18, Wainright 2-15, Engram 2-12, Tn.Carter 2-9, Harmon 2-5, Autry 2-4, T.Allen 1-9, Allred 1-5. Tampa Bay, K.Williams 4-47, Dunn 3-18, Davis 1-16, Anthony 1-8, Alstott 1-5, Jordan 1-0.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Indianapolis	7	3	8	10—28
Minnesota	7	22	7	9—45

First Quarter: Ind—Faulk 1 run (Blanchard kick), 7:59. Min—Carter 16 pass from Cunningham (Murray kick), 3:49. Second Quarter: Min—FG Murray 29, 14:57. Ind—FG Blanchard 27, 7:03. Min—Carter 3 pass from Cunningham (Murray kick), 5:36. Min—Hoard 6 run (kick blocked), 3:55. Min—Glover 14 pass from Cunningham (pass failed), 1:02. Third Quarter: Ind—Faulk 3 run (Harrison pass from Harbaugh), 6:16. Min—Carter 13 pass from Cunningham (Murray kick), 2:55. Fourth Quarter: Ind—FG Blanchard 23, 14:14. Ind—Harrison 2 pass from Harbaugh (Blanchard kick), 9:26. Min—FG Murray 26, 2:20. A—54,107.

RUSHING—Indianapolis, Faulk 23-102, Harbaugh 3-14, Crockett 3-13, Groce 3-3, Holcomb 2-0. Minnesota, R.Smith 17-160, Hoard 6-19, Evans 1-2, Cunningham 5-(minus 1).

PASSING—Indianapolis, Harbaugh 15-27-0-167, Holcomb 5-8-3-29. Minnesota, Cunningham 13-27-3-174.

RECEIVING—Indianapolis, Dawkins 7-66, Harrison 7-65, Faulk 3-23, Dossing 2-12, Stablein 1-30. Minnesota, Carter 6-69, Glover 3-36, R.Smith 2-15, Reed 1-21, DeLong 1-12, Evans 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

New Orleans	0	0	7	6—13
Kansas City	3	9	0	13—25

First Quarter: KC—FG Stoyanovich 30, 3:33. Second Quarter: KC—FG Stoyanovich 25, 8:27. KC—Vanover 82 punt return (pass failed), 5:47. Third Quarter: NO—Poole 32 pass from Hobert (Brien kick), 5:57. Fourth Quarter: KC—Allen 3 run (pass failed), 11:21. KC—Popson 3 pass from Gannon (Stoyanovich kick), 9:31. NO—Poole 14 pass from Wuerffel (run failed), 2:23. A—66,772.

RUSHING—New Orleans, Zellars 18-47, Davis 5-41, Hobert 1-15, Wuerffel 1-0. Kansas City, Allen 9-50, Bennett 10-37, Hill 10-32, Grbac 4-18, Richardson 2-11, Aguiar 1-5, Anders 3-4, Tolver 2-(minus 1).

PASSING—New Orleans, Hobert 11-25-3-141, Wuerffel 2-4-0-18. Kansas City, Grbac 5-14-0-51, Gannon 3-4-0-7, Tolver 1-1-0-(minus 8).

RECEIVING—New Orleans, Guliford 4-63, Poole 3-49, Hastings 3-34, Smith 1-13, Zellars 1-6, Davis 1-4. Kansas City, Anders 4-26, Popson 2-15, Gonzalez 1-9, Allen 1-5, Bennett 1-(minus 5).

MISSED FIELD GOAL—New Orleans, Brien 41 (WR).

N.Y. Giants	10	10	0	0—20
Dallas	0	0	7	0—7

First Quarter: NY—FG Daluiso 28, 9:44. NY—Calloway 21 pass from Kanell (Daluiso kick), :31. Second Quarter: NY—FG Daluiso 42, 7:59. NY—Hampton 1 run (Daluiso kick), 1:19. Third Quarter: Del—E.Smith 4 run (Cunningham kick), 13:57. A—63,748.

RUSHING—New York, Barber 17-82, Hampton 12-38, Way 7-15, Lane 5-13, Brown 1-0, Pegram 2-(minus 1). Dallas, E.Smith 13-40, Sh.Williams 6-39, Allman 1-0, Wilson 1-0.

PASSING—New York, Kanell 8-16-0-129, Brown 2-4-0-14. Dallas, Aikman 6-16-1-73, Garrett 10-14-0-66, Wilson 1-2-0-7.

RECEIVING—New York, Calloway 3-74, Petten 2-47, Toomer 2-14, Way 1-5, Barber 1-2, Pierce 1-1. Dallas, Miller 6-49, LaFleur 3-11, Walker 2-16, Sh.Williams 2-16, Irvin 2-13, E.Smith 1-15, Galbraith 1-11, Sh.Williams 1-5.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—New York, Daluiso 38 (WL). Dallas, Cunningham 44 (WL).

Philadelphia	7	7	3	15—32
Washington	14	14	0	7—35

First Quarter: Was—Pounds 16 fumble return (Jacke kick), 13:30. Was—Green 83 interception return (Jacke kick), 4:57. Phi—Dunn 31 pass from Hoying (Boniol kick), 3:18. Second Quarter: Was—Davis 1 run (Jacke kick), 14:06. Phi—Garner 9 run (Boniol kick), 10:39. Was—Bowie 3 run (Jacke kick), 5:41. Third Quarter: Phi—FG Boniol 33, 5:12. Fourth Quarter: Phi—Garner 1 run (Solomon pass from Hoying), 8:41. Was—Westbrook 7 pass from Hostetler (Jacke kick), 5:00. Phi—Solomon 14 pass from Hoying (Boniol kick), 1:09. A—75,939.

RUSHING—Philadelphia, Garner 18-115, Watters 8-30, Staley 6-30, Turner 2-16, Hoying 2-2. Washington, Davis 12-65, Bowie 3-23, Hostetler 4-0, Mitchell 1-(minus 10).

PASSING—Philadelphia, Hoying 21-31-1-255. Washington, Hostetler 16-23-2-160, Green 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING—Philadelphia, Turner 6-44, Fryar 4-65, Solomon 3-30, Garner 3-23, Jones 2-20, Staley 2-22, Dunn 1-31. Washington, Westbrook 5-58, Asher 4-45, Bowie 2-21, Davis 2-(minus 3), Mitchell 1-18, Connell 1-14, Thomas 1-7.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Pittsburgh	3	0	0	3—6
Tennessee	3	10	3	0—16

First Quarter: Ten—FG Del Greco 34, 9:11. Pit—FG N.Johnson 23, 1:04. Second Quarter: Ten—Thomas 25 run (Del Greco kick), 8:57. Ten—FG Del Greco 29, :11. Third Quarter: Ten—FG Del Greco 26, 2:57. Fourth Quarter: Pit—FG Johnson 36, 11:31. A—60,577.

RUSHING—Pittsburgh, McAfee 10-27, G.Jones 16-21, Stewart 5-20, Tomczak 1-17, Witman 2-3, Blackwell 1-3, Marsh 1-2. Tennessee, McNair 7-90, Thomas 6-41, E.George 16-25.

PASSING—Pittsburgh, Stewart 6-16-1-67, Tomczak 8-11-0-69. Tennessee, McNair 10-25-1-102.

RECEIVING—Pittsburgh, Thigpen 6-64, Johnson 4-30, McAfee 2-44, Sadowski 1-12, Marsh 1-6. Tennessee, Mason 3-47, Kent 2-24, Wycheck 2-16, W.Davis 1-11, Sanders 1-4, Thomas 1-0.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Atlanta	14	3	3	5—25
Arizona	7	7	0	15—29

First Quarter: Atl—Emanuel 38 pass from Chandler (M.Andersen kick), 13:20. Atl—Godney 1 pass from Plummer (Nedney kick), 7:47. Atl—Mathis 17 pass from Chandler (M.Andersen kick), 1:06. Second Quarter: Atl—FG M.Andersen 25, 8:08. Ari—Plummer 1 run (Nedney kick), 2:58. Third Quarter: Atl—FG M.Andersen 31, 5:58. Fourth Quarter: Atl—FG M.Andersen 20, 14:58. Atl—FG M.Andersen 26, 8:41. Ari—Moore 21 pass from Plummer (Nedney kick), 4:55. Ari—Centers 1 pass from Plummer (Plummer run), :05. A—32,003.

RUSHING—Atlanta, J.Anderson 33-152, Chandler 5-35, Christian 1-2, Green 1-0. Arizona, Rn.Moore 10-36, Centers 3-20, Plummer 3-8, Smith 1-2, McElroy 1-0.

PASSING—Atlanta, Chandler 13-19-0-178, J.Anderson 0-1-1-0. Arizona, Plummer 19-40-2-237.

RECEIVING—Atlanta, Emmanuel 5-75, J.Anderson 4-36, Mathis 3-49, Kozlowski 1-16. Arizona, Rb.Moore 7-91, Sanders 4-82, Centers 4-32, K.Williams 2-25, Carter 1-6, Gedney 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Jacksonville	14	0	0	6—20
Oakland	0	3	6	0—9

First Quarter: Jac—McCardell 35 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick), 8:13. Jac—Jones 26 pass from Brunell (Hollis kick), 2:45. Second Quarter: Oak—FG Ford 33, 5:55. Third Quarter: Oak—Dudley 2 pass from George (pass failed), 7:06. Fourth Quarter: Jac—FG Hollis 19, 12:56. Jac—FG Hollis 23, 5:00. A—40,032.

RUSHING—Jacksonville, Means 18-80, Stewart 6-42, Brunell 3-27, Johnson 4-(minus 9). Oakland, Kaufman 21-94, Hall 1-11, Levitt 2-3.

PASSING—Jacksonville, Brunell 18-27-0-243, Johnson 1-1-0-40. Oakland, George 24-37-0-244.

RECEIVING—Jacksonville, McCardell 7-116, Smith 6-93, Stewart 2-23, Jones 1-26, Barlow 1-12, Mitchell 1-8, Means 1-5. Oakland, Brown 14-164, Jett 3-38, Thatt 3-29, Kaufman 3-11, Dudley 1-2.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

N.Y. Jets	10	0	0	6—16
Detroit	0	3	3	7—13

First Quarter: NY—FG Hall 32, 1:22. NY—Murrell 34 run (Hall kick), 3:12. Second Quarter: Det—FG Hanson 43, 0:00. Third Quarter: Det—FG Hanson 25, 10:45. Fourth Quarter: Det—B.Sanders 19 run (Hanson kick), 13:11. A—77,824.

RUSHING—New York, Murrell 12-43, Lucas 5-30, O'Donnell 1-18, L.Johnson 4-10, Anderson 3-6. Detroit, Sanders 23-184, Mitchell 5-12, Vardell 2-7, Rivers 1-3.

PASSING—New York, O'Donnell 21-35-1-202, Lucas 3-4-1-28, L.Johnson 0-1-1-0. Detroit, Mitchell 15-28-0-122.

RECEIVING—New York, K.Johnson 5-59, Chrebet 4-67, Baxter 4-32, Murrell 4-15, Brady 3-34, Graham 2-26, Anderson 1-(minus 9).

Detroit, Moore 4-39, T.Boyd 3-24, Sanders 3-10, Morton 2-13, Sloan 1-19, Vardell 1-11, McCorvey 1-6.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

San Diego	3	0	0	0—3
Denver	0	24	7	7—38

First Quarter: SD—FG Davis 26, 3:29. Second Quarter: Den—Smith 11 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 13:38. Den—Smith 15 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 9:05. Den—McCaffrey 1 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 4:09. Den—FG Elam 25, :13. Third Quarter: Den—Sharpe 66 pass from Elway (Elam kick), 14:37. Fourth Quarter: Den—Lovitle 6 run (Elam kick), 4:36. A—69,632.

RUSHING—San Diego, Byrnes 10-34, Brown 8-27, Whelihan 3-5, Craver 2-4. Denver, Lovitle 14-68, Hebron 12-47, D.Smith 2-11, Griffith 1-4, Brister 4-2.

PASSING—San Diego, Whelihan 15-28-1-147. Denver, Elway 17-26-1-273, Brister 6-9-0-48.

RECEIVING—San Diego, Martin 4-46, Metcalf 3-62, Brown 2-16, Jones 2-13, Byrnes 2-4, Still 1-10, Craver 1-6. Denver, Sharpe 8-162, R.Smith 4-53, McCaffrey 4-32, Hebron 2-41, Lovitle 2-10, Green 1-12, D.Smith 1-6, Carswell 1-2.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

San Francisco	6	0	3	0—9
Seattle	7	14	7	10—38

First Quarter: SF—FG Anderson 33, 10:25. SF—FG Anderson 40, 2:26. Sea—Galloway 37 pass from Moon (Peterson kick), :06. Second Quarter: Sea—McKnight 21 pass from Moon (Peterson kick), 11:05. Sea—Pritchard 21 pass from Moon (Peterson kick), 9:05. Third Quarter: SF—FG Anderson 23, 7:10. Sea—Galloway 35 pass from Moon (Peterson kick), 3:25. Fourth Quarter: Sea—FG Peterson 39, 13:13. Sea—Kline 1 run (Peterson kick), 2:54. A—66,253.

RUSHING—San Francisco, Levy 8-61, Kirby 11-47, Edwards 3-12, Brohm 1-4, Druckenmiller 1-1. Seattle, Warren 17-99, Smith 4-18, Broussard 2-7, Kline 2-0.

PASSING—San Francisco, Young 7-12-0-97, Druckenmiller 5-11-1-64, Brohm 6-10-0-85. Seattle, Moon 18-25-0-232, Kline 8-8-0-88.

RECEIVING—San Francisco, Stokes 4-60, Edwards 4-38, Fann 3-50, Owens 2-37, Levy 2-8, Uwaezuoke 1-18, Jones 1-12, Kirby 1-5.

Seattle, Galloway 6-101, Pritchard 6-90, McKnight 3-62, Crumpler 3-38, Broussard 1-9, Fauria 1-9, Harris 1-8, Hobbs 1-9, Smith 1-2, Warren 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Buffalo	0	0	8	13—21
Green Bay	14	7	3	7—31

First Quarter: GB—T.Davis recovered mulled punt in end zone (Longwell kick), 13:23. GB—Freeman 4 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 3:19. Second Quarter: GB—T.Davis 2 pass from Favre (Longwell kick), 7:26. Third Quarter: GB—FG Longwell 35, 9:36. Buf—A.Smith 5 run (Riemersma pass from Van Pelt), :23. Fourth Quarter: Buf—A.Smith 1 run (pass failed), 11:24. GB—Sharper 20 interception return (Longwell kick), 4:42. Buf—Van Pelt 1 run (Christie kick), 2:05. A—60,106.

RUSHING—Buffalo, Thomas 7-25, A.Smith 10-20, Van Pelt 2-4, Holmes 2-(minus 1). Green Bay, Levens 22-71, Hayden 7-33, Henderson 1-3, Pederson 3-(minus 4), Favre 1-(minus 1).

PASSING—Buffalo, Van Pelt 23-44-3-255, Mohr 1-1-0-29. Green Bay, Favre 12-18-0-156, Bono 5-10-0-29.

RECEIVING—Buffalo, Early 7-129, Johnson 4-44, Riemersma 4-42, A.Smith 4-32, Moulds 3-31, Reese 1-13, Holmes 1-12. Green Bay, Freeman 6-63, Brooks 4-63, Henderson 3-18, Chmura 2-17, T.Davis 1-2, Levens 1-2.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Green Bay, Longwell 45 (WR).

St. Louis	10	6	7	7—30
Carolina	0	0	6	10—16

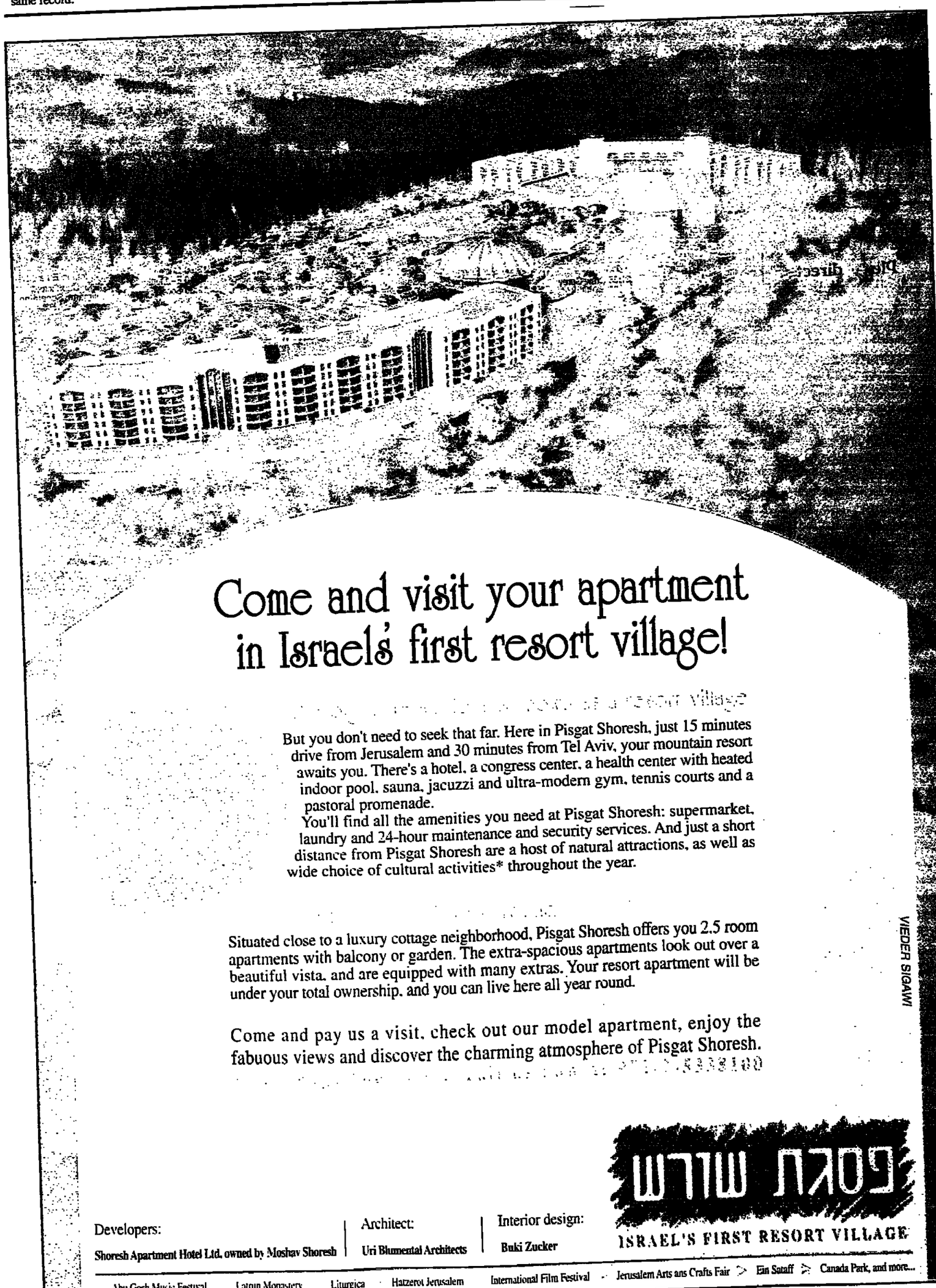
First Quarter: StL—Wiegert fumble recovery in end zone (Wilkins kick), 6:59. StL—FG Wilkins 49, :26. Second Quarter: StL—FG Wilkins 42, 10:31. StL—FG Wilkins 47, :00. Third Quarter: StL—Thompson 7 run (Wilkins kick), 10:01. Car—Carruth 35 pass from Collins (Muhammed pass from Collins), 6:48. Fourth Quarter: StL—Conwell 1 pass from Banks (Wilkins kick), 11:31. Car—Mills 2 pass from Beuerlein (A.Johnson run), 5:08. Car—Safety, Horan forced out of end zone, :48. A—68,101.

RUSHING—St. Louis, Moore 27-112, Thompson 3-11, Banks 2-11, Lee 3-10, Kennison 1-5, Hayard 2-1, Horan 1-(minus 3). Carolina, Lane 14-78, Carruth 1-8, A.Johnson 1-3, Beuerlein 1-2, Greene 1-2, Collins 2-(minus 5).

PASSING—St. Louis, Banks 16-25-1-183. Carolina, Collins 11-25-3-132, Beuerlein 10-17-0-129.

RECEIVING—St. Louis, Bruce 5-43, Lee 4-37, Conwell 3-59, Small 2-30, Haring 1-11, Kennison 1-3. Carolina, E.Mills 6-96, Carruth 4-66, Mangum 4-56, Muhammad 4-46, A.Johnson 2-16, Greene 2-13.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



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Neil Simon is great when it's cold outside because his wise comedies warm you. The Hadassah Center Stage Theater presents his somewhat autobiographical *Brighton Beach Memoirs* about growing up in a Jewish family during the Depression. Kate Brody directs a cast of young actors from the Hamagshimim aliya movement. Tonight and Thursday at 8 and tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. at Mercaz Hamagshimim. Info and tickets: (02) 561-9165.

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HELEN KAYE

Festigal kicks off in Haifa with a star-studded line-up including mime Hanoch Rosenne, Hani Nahmias, Dana Dvorin, Efrat Reiten and all the kids' favorite stars from the Children's Channel. Songs galore, glitzy numbers, color, excitement and kids. Tonight at the Haifa Sports Stadium at 6 p.m., tomorrow at 4:15 and 7:15 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

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Nicholas McGegan leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA in the most popular excerpts from Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus*, including "See the Conquering Hero Comes" chorus and *Messiah* with the "Hallelujah" chorus to open the 1997 Liturgica Festival in a program that begins with Paul Ben-Haim's *Bein Hadasim*. Tonight (8:30) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

The International Symphony Orchestra class of '97 opens its concerts with Dvorak's eighth symphony, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Richard Strauss's *Till Eulenspiegel* tonight at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and tomorrow at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem. Friday (4) at the YMCA hall in Jerusalem, Bruckner's fourth symphony replaces the Strauss and Mussorgsky works. The conductor is Jacek Kaspszyk.



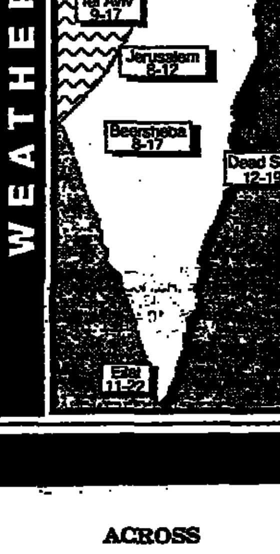
Mime Hanoch Rosenne helps to kick off the annual Festigal event, in Haifa tonight.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★★ FEVER PITCH — Based on British writer Nick Hornby's autobiographical best-seller, this is a genuinely delightful love story, *though the romance in question isn't of the* usual boy-meets-girl sort. While the film does have its boy, Paul (Colin Firth), and girl, Sarah (Ruth Gemmell), and they do meet and get *together early on, the movie's real concern* – the source of its sweetly madcap energy – is Paul's other, lifelong love. He's a man obsessed with a soccer club, Arsenal, and the film takes *triangular shape as Sarah battles with the* Gunners for Paul's lasting affections. For all the casual pleasure it gives, the movie (directed with an exacting, almost anthropological eye by *David Evans and adapted by Hornby for the* screen) evolves as a surprisingly wise and often quite cutting examination of what it means to feel passionate about something, anything, past the point of logic or good sense. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

WEATHER



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	01	34	06	43	cloudy
Beijing	-06	21	03	37	p/cloudy
Berlin	00	32	03	37	rain
Boston	-07	19	01	34	clear
Buenos Aires	16	61	21	70	rain
Cairo	09	48	20	68	cloudy
Chicago	00	32	03	37	cloudy
Copenhagen	00	32	02	36	cloudy
Frankfurt	02	36	02	36	rain
Geneva	02	36	06	43	clear
Helsinki	-11	12	-02	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	64	20	68	cloudy
Jo'burg	15	59	25	77	p/cloudy
Lisbon	12	54	16	61	cloudy
London	05	41	09	48	cloudy
Los Angeles	11	52	17	63	clear
Madrid	08	46	12	54	rain
Montreal	-16	03	-10	14	cloudy
Moscow	-10	14	-09	16	p/cloudy
New York	-03	27	03	37	cloudy
Nice	08	46	13	55	p/cloudy
Paris	05	41	09	48	cloudy
Prague	-02	28	05	41	cloudy
Rio de Janeiro	24	75	36	97	p/cloudy
Rome	06	43	14	57	clear
San Francisco	09	48	13	55	clear
Stockholm	-02	28	00	32	cloudy
Sydney	26	79	32	90	clear
Tokyo	03	37	08	46	cloudy
Toronto	-09	16	00	32	cloudy
Vienna	02	36	05	41	p/cloudy
Warsaw	-01	30	02	36	cloudy
Washington	01	34	08	46	rain
Zurich	01	34	05	41	p/cloudy

WINNING CARDS

in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing

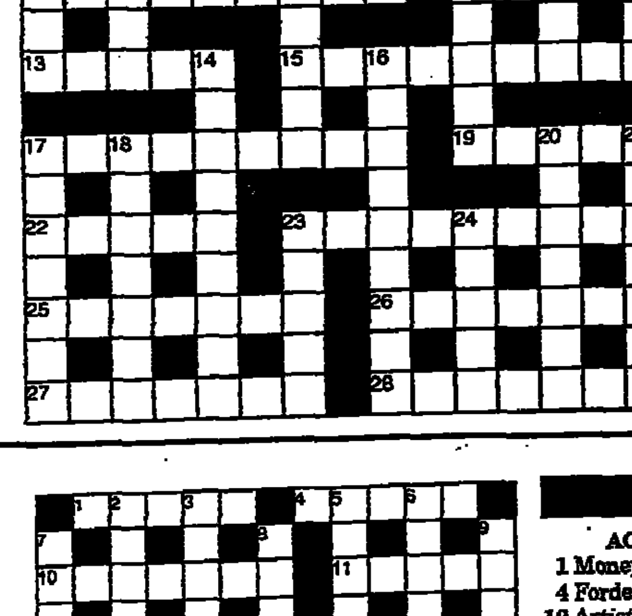


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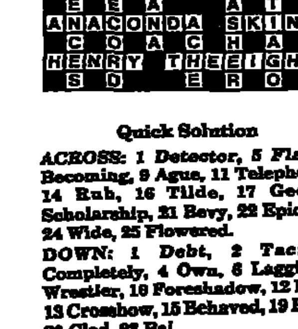
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Avoid showing fright when catching the ball (7)
5 To succeed, it must follow her in first (7)
9 Largely in royal fashion (7)
10 A sitter becoming a performer (7)
11 Give two pounds, nothing more, for an old master (9)
12 Marks or pounds? (5)
13 Sound director made fun of (5)
15 Make sure as sure can be (9)
17 Existing fashion? (4,5)
19 State of birth (5)
22 The one to right of them (5)
23 Accept a holiday and say goodbye (4,5)
25 Football official on the application form? (7)
26 In mental disorder I suffer from it (7)
27 Holder of the colours (7)
28 Pardons and releases (7)

DOWN
1 Light shadow on hearth (7)
2 English Period showing unusual energy about the first century (7)
3 Spectacular effect when powder magazine finally goes up (5)
4 Two blues for British hearties (5,4)
5 State aid distributed by the Home Office (5)
6 For such an accident, call bronzed doctor, one from overseas (3-3-3)
7 The stone archaeologists treat so cryptically (7)
8 After the start of trial, argue cause of a crime (7)
14 Run away twice? Not this soldier! (6,3)
16 Restrain a friend in final defeat (9)
17 Allows to rest peacefully? *Quite the opposite!* (4,3)
18 Upset rum truffle (7)
20 Red Star delivery for dealers (7)
21 Lear production set up with part of Hamlet (7)
23 Subject he met in form (5)
24 Shrub I ring up about (5)



SOLUTIONS

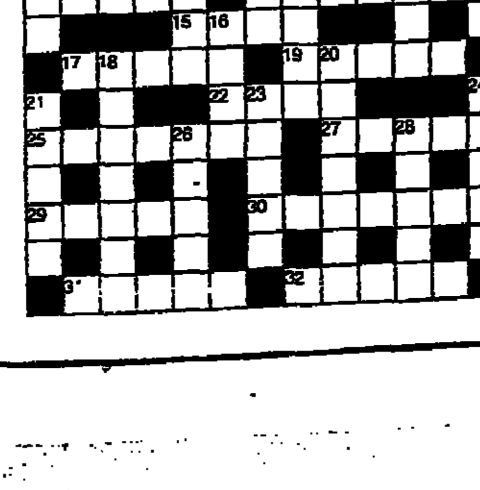


Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Detector, 5 Flaw, 8 Becoming, 9 Ague, 11 Telephonist, 14 Rub, 16 Tilde, 17 Gee, 18 Scholarship, 21 Bevy, 22 Epidural, 24 Wide, 25 Flowered.

DOWN: 1 Debt, 2 Tacit, 3 Completely, 4 Own, 6 Lagging, 7 Wrestler, 10 Foreshadow, 12 Polar, 13 Crossbow, 15 Behaved, 19 Purer, 20 Clad, 23 Pal.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Moneybag (5)
4 Forded (5)
10 Artist (7)
11 Custom (5)
12 Perfect (5)
13 Mesh (7)
15 Irritable (4)
17 Slither (5)
19 Each (5)
22 Lose colour (4)
25 Property (7)
27 Tremble (5)
29 Ascend (5)
30 Expelled (7)
31 Representative (5)
32 Compassion (5)

DOWN
2 Combine (5)
3 Paid (7)
5 *Grown-up* (5)
6 Captivate (7)
7 Mar (5)
8 Tine (5)
9 Jaunty (5)
14 Observed (4)
16 Dextrous (4)
18 Hoisting (7)
20 Trace (7)
21 Roost (5)
23 Pale (5)
24 Prepared (5)
26 Hut (5)
28 Garret (5)

TV

■ CHANNEL 1
6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ *EDUCATIONAL TV*
8:00 Life on the Screen – computers and the Internet
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Science and Nature
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 English
12:00 French
12:30 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
13:30 Cartoons
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

■ CHANNEL 1
15:30 *Pink Panther*
16:00 The Mask
16:30 Zapzaps
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 Zap
18:15 News *in English*

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Apropo
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 News flash
19:31 Lighting of first Hanukka candle at the President's Residence
20:00 News
20:45 Mine Host Meni Pe'er
21:55 Lotto draw – live
22:00 Live and Let Die (1973) – James Bond is played by Roger Moore, supported by Jane Seymour
23:58 News
00:05 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2
6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Cartoons
7:00 Reshet Morning
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 The Little Circle
12:00 Ahalan Wasahalan
12:30 Fudge
13:00 The Adventures of the Bush Patrol
13:30 Zombit
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Junior News
15:00 Best Video Clips
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rafi Reshef
17:30 New Zehu Zeh
18:00 Pauley
18:30 Cybill
19:00 Squad 132
20:00 News
20:31 Candid Camera
22:05 Dan Shilon Live
23:30 To Touch Evil – British police series
00:00 News
00:05 To Touch Evil, contd.
00:35 Mission Impossible
1:30 A Touch of Love
2:00 On the Edge of the Shelf

■ JORDAN TV
14:00 Holy Koran
14:10 Sandokan
14:30 CRO
15:00 Skippy
15:30 Album Show
14:30 Square One TV
17:00 Secret de Famille
17:30 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres
18:30 Savoir Plus Sante
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Orient sur Seine
19:30 News headlines
19:35 You Bet Your Life
20:00 Skeleton Coast
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Hollywood Remembers
22:00 News in English
22:30 Margaret Volant
23:15 Scarlet and Black

■ MIDDLE EAST TV
7:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Arthur
17:23 Madeleine
17:45 Babar
18:10 Wait Till You Have Kids
18:35 Saved by the Bell
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Christmas Special – Micah's Christmas
22:05 Sirens
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)
Broadcasts begin after coverage of the Knesset sitting ends
16:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 Panel discussion in Arabic
18:00 The Tyrant
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
20:45 *Kavanagh, Q.C.*
22:00 Showcase
22:30 Telekesset
23:00 Cinema 3

■ *ETV 2 (23)*
15:30 Echo Point
16:00 News Writing
16:30 Directions
17:00 Olivewood – children's program in Arabic
17:30 Nature and Science
18:00 Family Album
18:30 Blitz on Cartoons
19:00 Life on the Screen
19:30 Mirror
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Through Our Eyes
21:00 Laughing Matters – documentary series on humor
22:00 Growing Old in a New Age
23:00 P.D. James's Shroud for Nightingale – part 4

■ FAMILY CHANNEL (3)
7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Ana
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 Frasier
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:40 Ricki Lake
16:30 Dulce Ana
17:15 One Life to Live
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
20:25 Dreams of Youth
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210
21:35 Drew Carey
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake
23:45 Silk Stalkings
00:30 Hart to Hart
1:20 North of 60

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)
11:30 No One Could Protect Her (1995) – A woman who was raped stalks her rapist
13:05 Get Zorkin (Hebrew, 1971) – Cult comedy based o the series of *Hasamba* books by Yigal Mossinson. With Shlomo Artzi.
14:25 Target For Rage (1997) – true story of an unemployed, frustrated young man who blames the teacher who had him kicked out of school for all his failures, and holds the entire school hostage.
18:00 Batman: Mask of the Phantasmic (1993) – sarcastic animated version in which a mysterious figure kills off Gotham's gangsters.
17:15 Perry Mason: *The Poisoned Pen* (1990) – a best-selling author is murdered. With Raymond Burr.
18:50 Reunion (1994) – *a young mother is* visited by the spirit of her dead four year old and considers killing herself to be with him
20:20 Lily Dale (1996) – adaptation of a play about a young man who returns to his Houston home in 1910 *after a long absence*. With Mary Stuart Masterson, Sam Shepard, Stockard Channing and Jean Stapleton
22:00 Prototype (1992) – futuristic action set in a post-nuclear-holocaust Los Angeles
23:40 A Family Divided (1995) – a mother who believes her family is perfect learns that her son was involved a group rape and lawyer husband has helped him conceal the fact
1:10 Cyborg Cop (1993) – a special agent kidnapped by a *mad scientist* is turned into a killing machine. With David Bradley

■ CHILDREN (6)
6:30 Cartoons
9:05 Make Believe Closet
9:35 Sonic
10:05 David the Gnome
10:40 Ninja Turtles
10:55 Flying Classroom
11:15 Waynehead
11:30 Flying Classroom
11:55 The Secret World of Alex (rpt)
12:35 Animaniacs
13:00 Flying Classroom
13:15 *What a Mess*
13:30 Celestine
13:40 Surprise Garden
14:05 Treasure Island
14:35 Billy the Cat
15:05 Ninja Turtles
15:25 Flying Classroom
15:40 Animated Heroes – Hanukka
16:10 Flying Classroom
16:30 The Secret World of Alex
17:10 Animaniacs
17:25 Flying Classroom
17:45 Lois and Clark
18:30 The Arena
19:00 Festigal
19:35 Family Matters
19:55 Roseanne
20:25 Married with Children
20:45 Helen and the Boys
21:15 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)
22:00 Star Knight (Spanish (1986) – sci-fi fantasy about a spaceship which is mistaken by medieval knights to be a dragon. With Harvey Keitel, Klaus Kinski and Fernando Rey
23:30 Autumn Moon (Chinese, 1992) – a friendship is struck up by a Chinese teenager – whose family is about to emigrate to Canada – and a Japanese touris in pre-Chinese takeover Hong Kong. Directed by Clara Lau

■ CHANNEL 8
6:00 Open University
8:00 A Taste of the Caribbean
8:30 Travelogue (rpt)
8:55 Cultural Cities of China, part 13 (rpt)
9:50 Rimsky-Korsakov's Sadko – performed by the Kirov *Opera*
12:45 A Healthy Body
13:15 The Nature of Things: The Invaders
14:00 A New World, *Saving the Planet:* Arizona (rpt)
14:30 Destination Mars, part 2 (rpt)
15:25 Star Dust, part 2: Children of the Universe (rpt)
16:05 Rediscovery of Cousteau (rpt)
17:00 Open University: J'Accuse Mozart; B. *Morisot*; Greek Fire; Hayek, Freedom's Philosopher
19:00 A Healthy Body
19:35 The Nature of *Things: Greening* Business
20:30 Ultrascience: Androids
21:00 The Treatment: *Multiple Sclerosis*
21:55 Women, The Inside Story
22:45 Rediscovery of Cousteau: Nauru
23:35 *Open University:* Three Painters; Money Lenders; Stress

■ NBC EUROPE
6:00 Travel Xpress
6:30 The Ticket
7:00 VIP
7:30 NBC Nightly News
8:00 MSNBC News
9:00 The Today Show
10:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Money Wheel
15:30 CNBC US Squawk Box
16:30 Europe A La *Carte*
17:00 Wine Cellar
17:30 Dream House
18:00 Time and Again
19:00 National *Geographic Television:* Borneo, Beyond the Grave
20:00 VIP
20:30 The Ticket
21:00 Dateline: Galileo
22:00 NCAA Basketball
23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno
00:00 Late Night with Conan O'Brien
1:00 Later
1:30 NBC News
2:00 Tonight Show (rpt)

■ STAR PLUS
6:00 Hindi programs
7:00 Oprah Winfrey
8:00 El TV
8:30 Fawlty Towers
9:00 Nine to Five
9:30 The X-Files
10:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
11:00 Santa Barbara
12:00 WWF Superstars
13:00 Wonder Years
13:30 Small Wonder
14:00 Hindi programs
17:30 Star News
18:00 Mind Your Language
18:30 Murder, She Wrote
19:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
20:00 Santa Barbara
21:00 Star News
21:30 Baywatch
22:30 Charlie's Angels
23:30 Vegas
00:30 Oprah Winfrey
1:30 21 Jump Street

■ BBC WORLD
News on the hour
6:30 World Review '97
7:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
8:00 The World Today
9:30 Top Gear (rpt)
10:30 World Review '97
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 Classic Adventure (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Wild World: *Wildlife on One (rpt)*
15:00 Newsdesk & Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 Holiday (rpt)
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Style!
19:30 Film '97 (rpt)
20:00 The World Today
21:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
22:00 Europe Direct
23:30 Interactive
00:00 Newsdesk & Business Report
2:05 USA Direct

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL
News through the day
6:30 World Report
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Insight
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 Moneyline (rpt)
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 World Sport
10:30 Showbiz Today
11:30 CNN Newsroom
12:30 World Sport
13:30 American Edition
13:45 Q&A (rpt)
14:30 Computer Connection
15:15 News & Business Asia
16:00 Larry King Live
17:30 World Sport (rpt)
18:30 Showbiz Today
19:30 Earth Matters
20:45 American Edition
21:30 World Business Today
22:30 Q&A
23:00 European News
23:30 Insight
00:00 World Business Today
00:30 World Sport
1:00 World View
2:30 Moneyline

■ CHANNEL 5
6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Kick – behind the scenes of English soccer
17:00 Golf
18:15 English League Soccer – roundup
19:00 Eilat Triathlon *1997*
19:30 Olympic Series
20:00 NCAA Basketball
21:15 English League Soccer – Wimbledon *vs. Arsenal*
23:00 South American Soccer

■ EUROSPORT
9:30 Motorsports
11:00 Tour de France
12:00 Alpine Skiing
13:00 Snowboard
14:00 Alpine Skiing
14:30 Triathlon: Hawaii
16:00 Biathlon: World Cup from Finland
18:00 Soccer: European goals
19:30 Cycling Magazine
20:30 Freewheeling
21:00 Soccer: World Cup Qualifiers
23:00 Boxing
00:00 Sumo
1:00 Equestrian
2:00 Soccer: Gillette's World Cup Dream Team

■ STAR SPORTS (unconfirmed)
8:30 UEFA Champions League – Highlights
9:30 Asia Sports Show
10:00 Inside Cricket
10:30 Boat Racing
11:00 PGA Tour
12:00 Golf: Omega Tour
13:00 Cricket
13:30 Badminton
17:30 Soccer: Spanish League
18:00 Squash
19:00 Asian Soccer
20:00 Athletics
21:00 Cricket
21:30 Soccer: Spanish League
22:00 Soccer: Asian Women's *Championship*
0:00 Soccer: Asian Women's Championship
2:00 PGA
3:30 Soccer: Spanish *League*
4:00 Cricket
4:30 Cricket: Pakistan vs West Indies – Second Test

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC
6:05 Telemann: Recorder sonata in F minor (Camerata Koln); Handel: Organ concerto op 4 no 1; L. Mozart: Symphony in G (New Zealand CO/Armstrong); Hassler: Grand sonata in C major for *piano three hands*
7:07 Nielson: 5 pieces for piano op 3; Schubert: Piano trio in B flat op 99
8:05 Beethoven: Rondo in C op 51 no 1 (Lortie); Beethoven: Symphony no 6 "Pastorale" (London PO/Tennstedt)
9:05 Rameau: Les Paladins (Orch. of the Age of Enlightenment/Leonhardt); Haydn: Harmoniemesse Hob. 22 no 14 (Namir chor./Petite Bande/Kuijken); Mozart: Piano concerto in B flat K 238 (van Immerseel/Anima Eterna); Beethoven: String quartet in C minor op 131 (New Budapest)
12:00 Light Classical – works by Weber, Mozart and Grieg
13:00 Artist of the Week – Nathan Brand, piano. Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition; Chopin: Ballade no 4 in F minor op 52; Chopin: Scherzo no 1 in B minor op 20
14:06 Folk music –Klezmer music with Itzhak Perlman and Giora Feidman
15:00 From the *Recording Studio* – Allan Sternfeld, piano. Hummel: Sonata in E flat; Zvi Avni: Capriccio; *Ullmann: Sonata no* 3; Rossini: 3 pieces from Peches de vieillesse
16:00 Ear on the *Pulse with Rahel* Gera
18:00 New CDs – Pusch: Sacred songs; Bach: Cello suite no *6 in D major*; Zelenka: Hypochondria in A (Concentus Musicus/Harnoncourt); Sebastian de Brossar: Mass for 5 voices; Schubert: Piano sonata in A D644
20:05 Liturgica '97 - Jerusalem Symphony Orch. cond Nicholas McGegan; Handel: excerpts from Judas Maccabaeus and Messiah; Ben-Haim: Among the Myrtles
22:00 A Musical Journey

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30	News flash Lighting of 1st Hanukka candle		Beverly Hills 90210		Family Matters Roseanne	The Nature of Things
20:00	News	News	Dreams of Youth	Lily Dale	Married with Children Helen and the Boys	
20:30	Mine Host Meni Pe'er	Candid Camera	Beverly Hills 90210			Ultrascience: Androids
21:00					Beverly Hills 90210	The Treatment
21:30	Lotto draw		Drew Carey Show			Women, The Inside Story
22:00	Live and Let Die	Dan Shilon Live	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Prototype	Star Knight	
22:30			Seinfeld			Rediscovery of Cousteau
23:00						

(Ariel Jerozolimski)

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Cop Land 9:30 • *Two Documentaries by John Huston* 10 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 The Game∞G.I. Jane 4:30, 7:15, 10 • 187 ∞ Conspiracy Theory ∞Tomorrow Never Dies 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Murder at 1600∞Fire Down Below 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • L.A. Confidential 4:30, 7:15, 10 **JERUSALEM THEATER** ☎ 5610011 Ulee's Gold 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • My Best Friend's Wedding∞Alien Resurrection ∞Afula Express 9:45 • Face/Off 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Nothing To Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 • *Home Alone 3* 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15 **MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL** ☎ 5700868 Tomorrow Never Dies 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • The Game 7:15, 9:45 • Lady and the Tramp 4:45 **SMADAR** ☎ 5618168 Fever Pitch 2, 6, 10 • Brassed Off 4, 8 **GAT** ☎6967888 My Best Friend's Wedding 5, 7:30, 9:45 **GORDON** ☎5236992 Breaking the Waves 4, 7, 10 **G.G. HOD 1–4** ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, *101 Dizengoff St.* L.A. Confidential 4:45, 7:15, 10 • The Peacemaker 5, 7:30, 10 • Conspiracy Theory 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Murder at 1600 5, 7:30, 10 **LEV** ☎5288288 Brassed Off 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Fever Pitch 11:45 a.m., 2, 5:15, 7:45, 10 • Ulee's Gold 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10 • The Fifth Element 11:45 a.m. • Career Girls 2, 7:30, 9:45 • Secrets and Lies 5 **LEV AVIV** Fever Pitch 11:15 a.m., 2:30, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • Brassed Off 11 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30 • Walking and Talking 2:15, 5:15, 7:45, 9:45 • Career Girls 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 5, 8, 9:45 • Ulee's Gold 11:30 a.m., 2, 5:15, 7:30, *9:45 • The Fifth Element* 11:30 a.m. **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 L.A. Confidential ∞Conspiracy Theory ∞The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Murder at 1600∞Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Center Nothing To Lose 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Face/Off 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Air Force One 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Alien Resurrection 2:30, 5, 7:30 • Home Alone 3 2:30, 5, 7:30 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102674 Opera House Afula Express∞One Night Stand 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Nothing To Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Roseanna's Grave 5, 7:30, 9:45 **G.G.TEL AVIV** ☎ 5281181 65 Pinsker St. The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Fire Down Below 5, 7:30, 10 • Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 **TEL AVIV *MUSEUM*** ☎6961297 *Mongolian Tale* 5, 8, 10

HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎ 8325755 Gabbeh∞Career Girls 7:15, 9:15 ***MORIAH*** ☎8643654 *Brassed Off* 7:30 • Fever Pitch 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 G.I. Jane∞Murder at 1600 4:45, 7:15, 10 • *The Game* 4:45, 7:15, 10 • 187∞Tomorrow Never Dies 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Fire Down Below 4:45 • L.A. Confidential 7:15, 10 **ORLY** ☎ 8381868 My Best Friend's Wedding 7, 9:15 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Tomorrow Never Dies 11 a.m., 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Game 4:30, 7, 9:30 • G.I. Jane 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Charlie & Louise∞Ali Baba 11 a.m. **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 Nothing To Lose∞Mortal Kombat 4:45, 7, 9:30 • *My Best Friend's Wedding 4:45, 7, 9:30* • One-Night Stand 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Roseanna's Grave 5, 7, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8674311 Alien Resurrection 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Face/Off 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 Alien Resurrection 4:45, 7, 9:30 • The Full Monty 5, 7, 9:30 • Afula Express 5, 7, 9:30 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7, 9:30 • Nothing To Lose 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Home Alone 3 4:45, 7, 9:30 • Face/Off 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 Afula Express 5, 7, 9:30 • ~~The Full Monty~~ 7, 9:30 • Home Alone 3 5, 7, 9:30

AFULA
RAV CHEN ☎ 6424047 Tomorrow *Never Dies 7:15, 9:30 • Home Alone 3* 7:15, 9:30 • Alien Resurrection 9:30 • Mortal Kombat 7:15

ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 G.I. Jane 7:30, 10 • My Best Friend's Wedding 7:30, 10

ARIEL
Father's Day 6 • Murder at 1600 9

ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10 • 187∞Murder at 1600 ∞Tomorrow *Never* Dies 5, 7:30, 10 • Conspiracy Theory 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Bean • L.A. Confidential 7:15, 10 • As Tears Go By 5 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 Face/Off 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Alien *Resurrection* 5, 7:30, 9:45 • *Home* Alone 3 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Nothing To Lose∞Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45

ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 G.I. Jane ∞Murder at 1600 5, 7:30, 10 • Tomorrow Never Dies∞187 5, 7:30, 10 • The Game 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 Nothing To Lose∞Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Afula Express 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Face/Off 9:45 • Alien Resurrection 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30 **RAV CHEN** ☎5531077 Face/Off 12:1 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30 • Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:15, 9:45 • *Nothing to Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45* • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Alien Resurrection 5, 7:30, 9:45 • G.I. Jane 9:45 • My Best Friend's Wedding 5, 7:30 • Afula Express 5, 7:30, 9:45

BEERSHEBA
G.G. GIL ☎6440771 Fire Down Below∞Murder at 1600 5, 7:30, 10 • L.A. Confidential ∞Conspiracy Theory 4:45, 7:15, 10 **G.G. ORI** ☎6103111 The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10 • G.I. Jane∞187∞Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV-NEGEV 1-4** ☎6235278 Nothing to Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Alien Resurrection 7:30, 9:45 • Face/Off 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30 • Lady and the Tramp 5

EILAT
GIL ☎6340182 187∞Bean∞Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10

HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30, 10 • *The Game 7:30, 10 • Home Alone 3 5*, 7:30, 10 • Alien Resurrection 5

HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎6902666 The Full Monty∞Afula Express 6, 8, 10 **HOLIDAY** ☎ 9544044 L.A. Confidential 10 • The Game 7:30 • Lady and the Tramp *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5:30, 7:30, 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 5:15, Home Alone 3 7:30 • The Game 10

HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 The Game∞Mortal Kombat∞Home Alone 3 5, 7:30, 10 • The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10

KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎ 9882521 Alien *Resurrection* 7:15, 9:30 • Mortal Kombat∞Home Alone 3 7:15, 9:30 **G.G. GIL** ☎7677370 Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 • Mortal Kombat ∞Home Alone 3 5, 7:30, 10 • G.I. Jane∞187∞Alien Resurrection 5, 7:30, 10 • The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10

KIRYAT BIALIK
GIL ☎1-800-224-247 G.I. Jane∞My Best Friend's Wedding∞187∞Murder at 1600 7, 9:30 • The Game 7, 9:30 • *Face/Off 7, 9:30* • Conspiracy Theory 7, 9:30 • Fire Down Below∞Tomorrow Never Dies 7, 9:30

KIRYAT SHOMNA
G.G. GIL ☎6905080 Tomorrow Never Dies∞Bean∞Home Alone 3 4:30, 7, 9:30

UPPER NAZARETH
GIL ☎6561332 Nothing To Lose ∞Tomorrow Never Dies 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Alien Resurrection 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Home Alone 3∞187 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Game 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Mortal Kombat 4:30, 7 • G.I. Jane 9:30

NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10 • G.I. Jane∞187 ∞Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10

NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 G.I. Jane∞187∞Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 • *The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10* • L.A. Confidential 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8618570 Face/Off∞My Best Friend's Wedding 9:45 • Nothing To Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30 11 a.m., 1, 3, 5:15, 7:30 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 6262756 Tomorrow Never Dies 7:15, 9:30 • Face/Off 9:30 • One Night Stand 7:15, 9:30 • Mortal Kombat 7:15

OR YEHUDA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 5333292 The Game 5, 7:30, 10 • Tomorrow Never Dies∞187∞G.I. Jane 5, 7:30, 10

PETAH TIKVA
G.G. HECHAL ☎ 9317374 Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 • Alien Resurrection 5, 7:30, 10 • 187 5, 7:30, 10 **SIRKIN** ☎ 9087989 My Best Friend's Wedding∞G.I. Jane 5, 7:30, 10 • Home Alone 3∞Nothing To Lose 5, 7:30, 10 • The Game 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30 • Murder at *1600 10*

RA'ANANA
CIN MOFET Gabbeh 8:30 **PARK** Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30 • Tomorrow Never Dies ∞Home Alone 3 5, 7:30, *10* • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 10 • Afula Express 5, 10 • Alien Resurrection 10

RAMAT GAN
RAV-GAN 1-4 ☎ 6197121 Face/Off 5, 7:30, 9:45 • My Best Friend's Wedding 9:45 • Afula Express 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Nothing to Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 Home Alone 3 5, 7:30 **RAV-OASIS 1-3** ☎ 6730687 The Game 9:45 • Alien Resurrection 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Mortal *Kombat 5, 7:30*

RAMAT HASHARON
KOKHAV ☎ 5491979 My Best Friend's Wedding 5, 7:15, 9:45

REHOVOT
CHEN ☎ 9362864 Fever Pitch 7:15, 9:30 • 187∞The Game 7:15, 9:45 • Brassed Off 7:30, 9:45 **RAV MOR** ☎ 9493595 Face/Off 9:45 • Nothing To Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Alien Resurrection *7:30, 9:45* • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30, 9:45 • My Best Friend's Wedding 5, 7:30 • Lady and the Tramp∞George of the Jungle 5

RISHON LEZION
GIL 1-3 ☎ 9500785 The Game 5, 7:30, 10 • Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:30, 10 G.I. Jane 5, 7:30, 10 • The Game 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30, 10 • Tomorrow Never Dies 5, 7:3, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 9670504 Alien Resurrection ∞The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Face/Off 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30 **STAR** My Best Friend's Wedding∞Home Alone 3 7:30, 10 • Alien Resurrection∞Nothing To Lose 7:30, 10

SHOHAM
STAR My Best Friend's Wedding∞*L.A. Confidential* 7:30, 10 • G.I. Jane∞Lady and the Tramp • Tomorrow Never Dies 7:30, 10

YEHUD
RAV CHEN ☎5387910 Face/Off∞My Best Friend's Wedding 9:45 • *Nothing* To Lose 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Full Monty 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mortal Kombat 5, 7:30 • Home Alone 3 5, 7:30

All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Inside

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Klinsmann returns to Spurs Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Playoff-bound Lions send Jets packing

Detroit's Sanders surpasses 2,000 yards in 13-10 win over Parcells & Co.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings made the NFL playoffs Sunday and the Lions, thanks greatly to Barry Sanders, put in Miami and New England.

Sanders ran for 164 yards in the second half to get his 2,000 yards for the season, the third player to do it.

And the Washington Redskins and New York Jets were left on the outside looking in, in part because of two questionable play calls by Jets coaches that led to interceptions, plus a questionable call by the officials on the second.

After Minnesota beat Indianapolis 39-28 to clinch one National Conference wild-card spot, the Lions beat the Jets 13-10 to get the second, knocking out both the Redskins and the Jets. That means four of the NFC's six playoff teams are from the Central, the second time in four years that has happened.

That set up these matchups for next weekend's wild-card round: On Saturday, Minnesota (9-7) is at the New York Giants (10-5-1) and Jacksonville (11-5) is at Denver (12-4) in a replay of last year's huge playoff upset by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

On Sunday, it will be the loser of last night's New England-Miami game at the winner, followed by Detroit (9-7) at Tampa Bay (10-6).

But this week was dramatic enough, headed by the Lions-Jets game at the Silverdome.

The Lions knew Washington had beaten Philadelphia 35-32 and they needed to win to make the playoffs; the Jets already knew they needed a victory to make it. There was also the subplot of Sanders' attempt for 2,000 yards.

Sanders had just 23 yards entering the final play of the third quarter, when he burst free for 47 yards. A few plays later, he scored from 15 yards and finished with 184 yards, including a 53-yard run at the 2-minute warning that put the game away. He finished the season at 2,053 yards, passing OJ Simpson's 2,003, second only to Eric Dickerson's 2,105.

"We developed into a patient offense," Sanders said. "We don't always have the best of starts."

The game was interrupted in the fourth quarter when Detroit linebacker Reggie Brown was taken unconscious from the field with what was reported as a head injury.

Brown, who needed to be resuscitated o the field, later regained consciousness and was able to move his arms and legs.

His injury in the fourth quarter delayed play for 17 minutes as medical personnel worked to revive him, silencing a raucous Silverdome crowd.

As he was about to be driven off the field in an ambulance, each team huddled in prayer. Some players had tears in their eyes.

He underwent neck surgery for a spinal injury yesterday. His pro career is most likely finished.

The Jets took a 10-0 lead before the Lions rallied. The Jets threatened twice, but backup quarterback Ray Lucas threw a third-down interception when they were in field goal range. Then rookie Leon Johnson's option pass on first-and-goal at the Detroit 9 was intercepted by Bryant Westbrook.

Replays showed Westbrook juggling the ball as he fell out of the end zone, but the officials ruled it a catch.

The win by the Minnesota Vikings was forged by a combo that got the Philadelphia Eagles to the playoffs in the '80s: Randall Cunningham throwing and Cris Carter catching.

Carter, who was cut by Buddy Ryan in 1990 after Ryan said "all he can do is catch touchdowns," caught three of them and Andrew Glover got a fourth.

It's the fifth time in six seasons under Dennis Green the Vikings are in the playoffs; they have yet to win in the postseason.

"This is a huge relief," said Cunningham, who will be the fifth quarterback to start a playoff game under Green. "We were able to go out and do what we needed to do to get into the playoffs."

Cunningham also threw three interceptions and the Vikes needed gifts — five turnovers by backup quarterback Kelly Holcomb, who played parts of the second and fourth quarters when Jim Harbaugh was hurt. Two interceptions and a fumble came in the second quarter as the Vikings turned a 10-10 tie into a 29-10 lead.

Harbaugh came back to bring the Vikes within 36-28, but was hurt on the TD play and Holcomb had to return.

After starting 0-10, the Indianapolis Colts beat Green Bay, the Jets and Miami, all teams with winning records.

Following the loss, Indianapolis's head coach Lindy Infante was fired. The Colts finished 3-13 for the worst record in the NFL.

Also, Tampa Bay beat Chicago 31-15, ensuring a home game in the first round of the playoffs. The Giants, who already clinched the NFC East, became the first team to go unbeaten in the division by beating Dallas 20-7. The defeat guaranteed that the Cowboys' would have their first 10-loss season since 1989.

Kansas City, which already locked up home field in the American Conference, beat New Orleans 25-13. Tennessee beat Pittsburgh 16-6, but the Pittsburgh Steelers wrapped up the AFC Central and a first-round bye by keeping the margin of defeat under 6-4.

Cincinnati continued its late-season run under Boomer Esiason by beating Baltimore 16-14.

Broncos 38, Chargers 3

One week after one of his worst games, John Elway had four touchdown passes for the Broncos. The Chargers (4-12) finished with an eight-game losing streak.

Oilers 16, Steelers 6

Host Tennessee (8-8) got the only meaningful thing from this game, a .500 season. The Oilers ran for 156 yards and became the third team to top 100 yards rushing this season against Pittsburgh (11-5), which has a bye next weekend.

Cardinals 29, Falcons 26

Jake Plummer threw a 1-yard TD pass to Larry Centers with 5 seconds left for host Arizona (4-12). The Falcons (7-9) had a five-game winning streak broken.

Jaguars 20, Raiders 9

Host Oakland (4-12) concluded its worst season since going 1-13 in 1962, the year before Al Davis took charge of the operation. Mark Brunell had touchdown passes to Keenan McCardell and Damon Jones for the Jaguars who finished at 11-5.

Seahawks 38, 49ers 9

Warren Moon, in his 20th season of pro football and 14th in the NFL, completed 16 of 25 passes for 232 yards and four touchdowns, giving him 3,678 yards passing for the season to break Dave Krieg's record of 3,671.

Visiting San Francisco's Gary Anderson, who is in his 16th NFL season, made three field goals and has now made 385 in his career, breaking the record of 383 held by Nick Lowery.

NFL Rushers-Season

	Year	G	No	Yards
Eric Dickerson, Rams	1984	15	380	2,105
Barry Sanders, Lions	1997	16	335	2,053
O.J. Simpson, Bills	1973	14	332	2,003
Earl Campbell, Oilers	1980	16	373	1,934
Barry Sanders, Lions	1994	16	331	1,883
Jim Brown, Browns	1963	14	291	1,863
Walter Payton, Bears	1977	14	339	1,852
Eric Dickerson, Rams	1986	16	404	1,821
O.J. Simpson, Bills	1975	14	329	1,817
Eric Dickerson, Rams	1983	16	390	1,808

Saturday's results: Green Bay 31, Buffalo 21; St. Louis 30, Carolina 18.
Sunday's results: Cincinnati 16, Baltimore 14; Tampa Bay 31, Chicago 15; Minnesota 39, Indianapolis 28; Kansas City 25, New Orleans 13; New York Giants 20, Dallas 7; Washington 35, Philadelphia 32; Tennessee 16, Pittsburgh 6; Arizona 29, Atlanta 26; Jacksonville 20, Oakland 9; Detroit 13, New York Jets 10; Denver 38, San Diego 3; Seattle 38, San Francisco 9.
Last night: New England at Miami.

NFL Standings

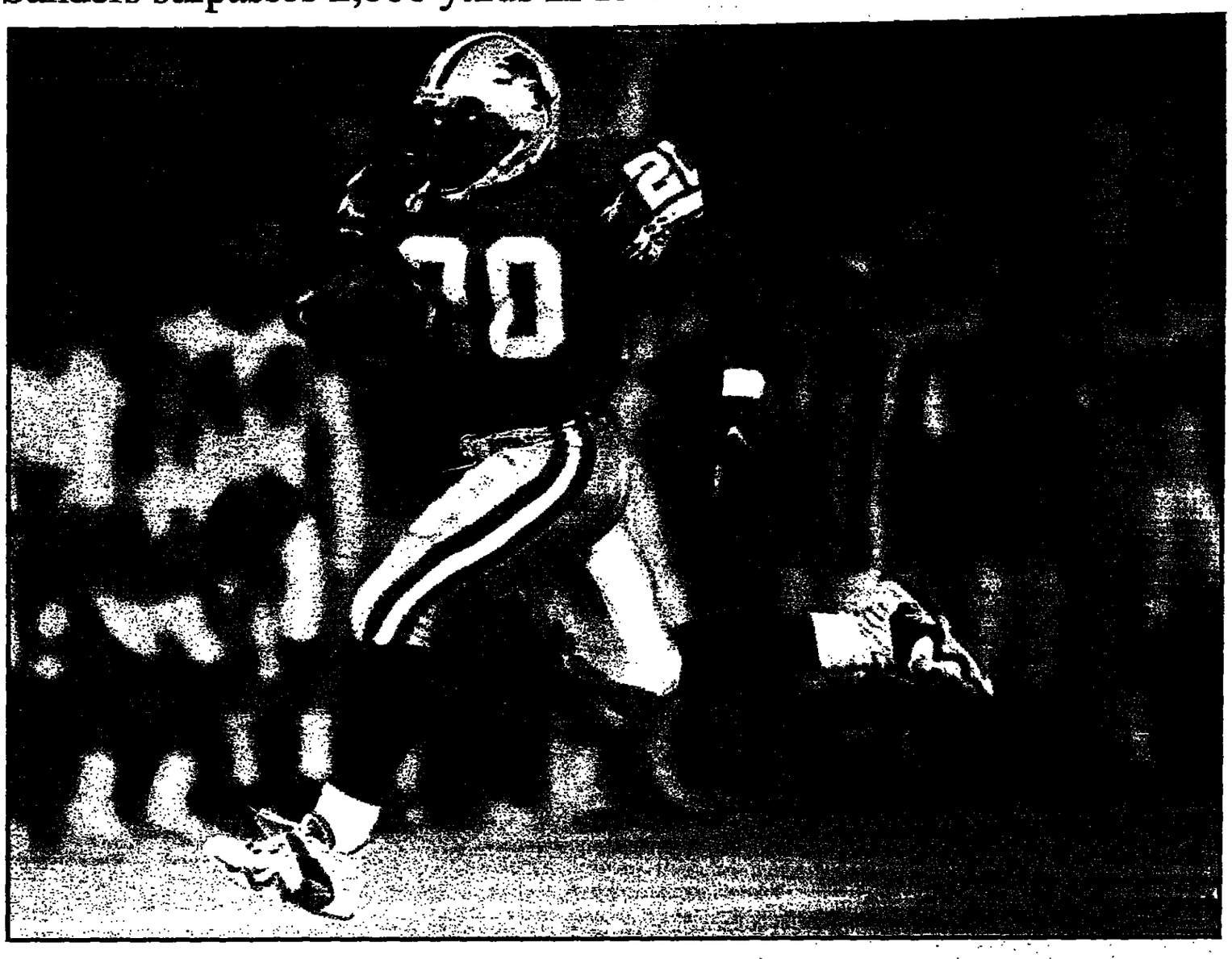
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-New England	9	6	0	.600	355	277
y-Miami	9	6	0	.600	327	313
N.Y. Jets	9	7	0	.563	348	287
Buffalo	6	10	0	.375	255	367
Indianapolis	3	13	0	.188	313	481
Central						
x-Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	372	307
y-Jacksonville	11	5	0	.688	394	318
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	333	310
Cincinnati	7	9	0	.438	355	405
Baltimore	6	9	1	.406	326	345
West						
x-Kansas City	13	3	0	.813	375	232
y-Denver	12	4	0	.750	472	287
Seattle	8	8	0	.500	365	362
Oakland	4	12	0	.250	324	419
San Diego	4	12	0	.250	266	425

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-N.Y. Giants	10	5	1	.656	387	265
Washington	8	7	1	.531	327	289
Philadelphia	6	9	1	.406	317	372
Dallas	6	10	0	.375	304	314
Arizona	4	12	0	.250	283	379
Central						
x-Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	422	282
y-Tampa Bay	10	6	0	.625	299	263
y-Detroit	9	7	0	.563	379	306
y-Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	354	359
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	263	421
West						
x-San Francisco	13	3	0	.813	375	265
Carolina	7	9	0	.438	265	314
Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	320	361
New Orleans	6	10	0	.375	237	327
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	359

x-won division title y-clinched playoff berth



ALL ALONE – Lions RB Barry Sanders breaks free for a 53-yard run on his last rush of the regular season to bring his total to 2,053. (Reuters)

Ronaldo wins 'Golden Ball'

PARIS (AP) — Brazilian striker Ronaldo followed up his selection as FIFA's 1996 world player of the year by being named yesterday as Europe's best player of 1997.

The Inter Milan star was a runaway winner in voting for *France Football* magazine's annual "Golden Ball" award.

The 21-year-old Ronaldo is the youngest player and the first South American ever to win the European award.

Ronaldo garnered 222 points in the balloting, with Yugoslavia's Pedrag Mijatovic of Real Madrid a distant second with 72. France's Zinedine Zidane of Juventus was third with 63 points.

Lewis, Holyfield agree to fight

LONDON (Reuters) – Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield have agreed to fight for the undisputed world heavyweight title in Las Vegas on April 25, Lewis's manager Frank Maloney said yesterday.

Maloney said the unification fight between Britain's WBC champion Lewis and the 35-year-old WBA and IBF champion Holyfield would carry a purse of between $40-50 million.

Both fighters have long expressed their desire to meet in a winner-takes-all fight.

It would be the first time the three heavyweight belts have been united since Riddick Bowe held them all in 1992.

Basketball State Cup draw

Maccabi Tel Aviv will face Hapoel Tel Aviv and Galil Elyon will play Hapoel Holon in the semifinals of basketball's State Cup.

The draw ensures a Tel Aviv derby despite Hapoel Tel Aviv's Second Division status. Hapoel knocked out Hapoel Jerusalem, the cup holders the past two seasons, in the two-leg quarterfinal on Sunday night. The semifinals will be contested on March 13 next year in a doubleheader at Yad Eliahu. *Ori Lewis*

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER: Wimbledon 0, Arsenal 0 (match abandoned after floodlight failure in 46th minute).

Leave temptation alone

Jerry Jones shouldn't run the Cowboys from the sidelines

MY CALL

By SHAUN POWELL

IRVING, Texas — Dallas Cowboy owner Jerry Jones climbed down from his luxury box at halftime, a quarter earlier than usual, and assumed the position. He stood on the sideline, hands on both knees. He sounded like a coach. He looked like a coach. He acted like a coach.

And pretty soon, the Cowboys will need a coach.

Barry Switzer assured his pending departure when the Cowboys faxed in the final game of a miserable 6-10 season. They wanted to be anywhere but at a half-empty Texas Stadium Sunday for a December exhibition game with a New York Giant team anxious to rub a division title in their faces. They couldn't move the ball, couldn't block and couldn't tackle in the first half. They were booed into the locker room down 20-0 at the break, and that was enough to get Jones out of his seat. A troubled team and a beleaguered coach, locked in a free fall all season, finally went splat.

"I'm personally responsible for what's happened," Switzer said. "I've always said it starts with the head coach and goes down from there."

And then Switzer opened the door to resigning before being pushed out when he said: "I don't know whether I'd want to be the coach next year."

Massive changes are on the way, and Jones will likely aim high when he swings his ax.

But, unfortunately, not high enough.

The problems of the Cowboys aren't just confined to Switzer on down. Jones needs to assess his own role in the demise of the Cowboys.

He must understand that a return to greatness won't happen until he becomes an owner who stays in his suite.

Even the task of finding Switzer's replacement hinges on Jones' willingness to reduce his involvement in football matters. The logical and most attractive choice is George Seifert, a restless ex-49er with rings. However, Seifert's boss with the 49ers confined himself to cheering and writing checks. And any other A-list candidate confronted by the Cowboys will want a major say in personnel matters, which is exactly what chased Jimmy Johnson out of town.

Jones continues to insist that the construction of a three-time Super Bowl winner was a double-J.J. affair. He considers himself an expert judge of talent and a general manager at heart, if not by trade. There are no plans to relegate that responsibility to the next coach. And Jones isn't hiring a GM, either. So the touches that need to be made to a team that still has its Super Bowl core will be applied by a heavy-handed owner.

The Cowboys still have a capable quarterback, although Troy Aikman, no Switzer fan himself, is merely functional when he doesn't have a running game. They have Emmitt Smith, although there are doubts about whether he will see many more Pro Bowls. And there is Michael Irvin, still more dangerous on the field than off it. Even though Aikman passed for 73 yards and Emmitt averaged 3.1 yards per carry and Irvin caught just two harmless balls against the Giants, this is a nucleus that isn't ready to be shattered.

But the offensive line is aging and must resort to clubbing and cheap wrestling tactics. The defensive line is only adequate and the secondary is vulnerable to giving up the big catch. Giants quarterback Danny Kanell never saw so many open receivers as he did Sunday.

And Jones is going to fix this? "I will do a thorough job, and I will do my homework," he said.

Jones' task is to repair a team ravaged by free agency and decay. Except there's one problem. Jones is best at buying players, yet he's hampered by the salary cap. He can only be so creative in the offseason. With several players locked into pricey, long-term contracts, Jones won't be able to chase free agents with Deion Sanders money.

But the revamping of the Cowboys doesn't begin or end with Barry Switzer. It starts right at the top. (Newsday)



EMERGENCY AID – A hopeful Dallas Cowboys fan asks Mr. Claus to lend a hand to team renewal. (AP)